

The Leader

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—HUMBOLDT'S COSMOS.

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News of the Week.

MINISTERS are in danger. "Thrice defeated in three days!" exclaims a Tory journalist, exultingly. "Beaten without a word of support from their own side!" exclaims a quasi-Ministerial paper. Who cares? The momentous fact is told, and retold, and reechoed in every quarter. It passes from mouth to mouth in the clubs—it is gravely recited in the lobbies of the House—it resounds in the streets—it is repeated as a capital joke—"the only news of the day." Perhaps the single party that looks rather disconsolate at the prospect is that of the ultra-Radicals; who regret to lose their tame Ministry as a professional huntsman would regret to lose a stag that was an old hand at being uncarted, was known to afford excellent sport, and yet offered no danger to the dogs. The triple occasion of all this danger is about the smallest that could have been selected. Ministers do select the strangest possible measures on which to take a final stand. They made the silly African squadron a Cabinet measure; and now they risk their existence in opposition to Mr. Fitzroy's County Courts Bill; dashing their heads against the post of common sense. Captain Boldero attempts to release the Assistant Surgeons of the Navy from the very improper position in which they are placed on board ship, exiled from the society of Officers, and lodged with the little boys: any alteration of the arrangements was openly resisted by certain high-born members of the Naval profession, on the ground that surgeons are born to an inferior rank and not sent to aristocratic schools; and Ministers backed this opposition on the plea that there is no "room" in ships for making the change, and giving the surgeons better lodgings. Thus they courted on mean and unworthy grounds, the defeat that visited them in the adverse division of forty-eight to forty. Captain Boldero carried his motion; but Sir Francis Baring threw out a hint that it would prove "impracticable;" meaning, of course, impracticable under his own administration. The existing arrangement, and the opposition to so small and reasonable a reform, are both based on the remains of that spirit which makes the high-born and wealthy classes look down superciliously upon those of inferior "rank."

But the worst defeat, in some respects, was that which Ministers sustained on the question of the Window-tax; for virtually it was a defeat, although they had a majority—80 to 77. The Window-tax is a very hateful and vexatious impost, and has betrayed the executive into the most derogatory contests with the subject. You may not admit air to your pantry by knocking out a brick, nor ventilation to the sick-room by a perforated zinc-plate, without drawing upon you the tax-collector for a higher charge. The collector finds that the poor man,

stified in a close room, has sought a little air, as he might do for a leech in a pill-box, by knocking out a brick and making a hole in the wall. The collector tells him it is "a window": he might as well call the hole in the elbow of an old coat a button-hole. And so probably it would be, if that were necessary "for revenue purposes." However, Ministers cannot long resist common sense with a majority of three.

The prospect of change has restored something like animation to the countenance of politicians. Men rub their hands and wonder whether Stanley will be "sent for;" evidently with a wish that it may be so. Protectionists imagine that they are to have their turn. Hearty Liberals are not without the satisfaction induced by the prospect of a little real contest.

The political movements about the country do not much vary. The church agitation continues; perhaps with some increase in the positive tone on either side; but certainly with an increase of numbers. The clergy of Hull exemplify those who support the committee of Privy Council in their conciliatory judgment—strange epithet for a judicial decision. Mr. Gorham's own parishioners of St. Just have thanked him for his exertions. A larger number support the Bishop of Exeter. And if the present turn of affairs continues, we shall have to note the growth of a very remarkable disposition to make the Church of England more independent of the State.

The Parliamentary Reform movement goes forward in preparation for the London meeting the week after next. Ireland continues to show signs of improvement.

The destruction of Cottenham, a village in Cambridgeshire, by an incendiary conflagration, lends an unusual importance to that class of crime. Crimes of malignant, or base feeling, as distinguished from those of depredation, seem to be in the ascendant. We have these vindictive incendiary fires, domestic poisonings, and a singular run of offences, involving breach of faith towards women, especially breaches of promise of marriage. The number of mean rascals who perpetrate these offences is great just now.

The Cape of Good Hope has justified its emulation of Canada in coercing Ministers to do justice under the threat of rebellion: Lord Grey has been obliged to give up his attempt to introduce convicts into the Cape, and retires from the contest with a very bad grace,—thwarted, but not convinced,—beaten from the wrong, and not reconciled to the right,—betraying in the petulance even of his closing despatches the fact that he would still do mischief if he had the audacity or the strength. Luckily he has neither.

The insult to Prince Louis Napoleon, chronicled last week, appears to have been much exaggerated; that, too, even by some of the Conservative

journals. There was, however, in the incident plain indication that the unpopularity of the President is increasing. The exaggerated tone also has its significance, showing the state of uneasiness and alarm pervading France. The slightest rumour swells and fixes into solid proportions. Men seem all intent on watching the straws which may show the prevailing eddy. As a sample, it was reported that Changarnier had not been invited to the review of Vincennes, that he had in revenge appointed a review in the Champ-de-Mars, which the President, in his turn offended, countermanded. So it was reported that the two were at mortal enmity. Other instances of such exaggeration may be found in the importance attached to the election of a "Moderate" as Colonel of the Eleventh Legion of the National Guard, and in the story which magnified a common colliers' strike for wages, at the coal-mines of Auzin, near Valenciennes, into a Socialist movement. Anarchy is in all parties. M. de la Rochejaquelein breaks the line of "legitimate" policy. The Assembly hesitates not to play the partisan: it annulled the elections of the Saône and Loire—which returned democratic members by a majority of 17,000—because more persons had voted than were inscribed on the election lists; and it confirmed the election of the Haut Rhin—which returned two "Moderates" by a majority of 188—though guilty of the same irregularity. The very President of the Assembly is not ashamed to interrupt debates.

The French army in Rome is still further reduced. The 6000 men remaining will neither overawe the Romans, nor be able to stem the Austrian tide threatening to overwhelm the Peninsula. The position of Austria in Italy is stronger than ever. Every military point is occupied; 50,000 men are concentrating on Milan, where new arrests of the disaffected are made continually. Still Italians watch events, and hope; answering with manifest indignation the Austrian commemorations of the fatal battle of Novara. In Sicily petitions against the Constitution are forcibly obtained by the agents of the Government. The King of Naples prepares to second Austria from the South, in supporting the papal throne, and in trampling out the hopes of Italy. But even with such supporters, the Pope is afraid; he yet lingers on the border, not choosing, it is said, to trust himself in Rome, where priestly vengeance knows no bounds.

The last poor relic of German "Radical Ministries" has expired at Mecklenburg Schwerin: the reaction is now universal,—for even Erfurt promises are fading away,—this last Prussian "dodge" is being clumsily managed that it is exposed even before the preliminaries are completed. Already reports are afloat of reconciliation between Austria and Prussia, to be followed by a Congress of Sovereigns at Dresden, doubtless only for their "peoples' good." Even a general amnesty is spoken of as not impossible,—after 900 political trials in Saxony, and unnumbered execu-

tions in the Austrian "dominions." There is to be "peace" in Enrope—the Princes arranging to help each other in keeping down their beloved people.

The Greek dispute approaches to an amicable settlement. That little matter off his hands, Lord Palmerston is said to be amusing himself with angry notes to Austria, on her advice to Tuscany, as if Austrian interference there had been so unwonted. Report speaks also of a British fleet in the Tagus, doubtless on some important mission.

PARLIAMENT.

PROGRESS OF WORK DONE.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.—Charitable Trusts Bill—County Courts Bill, by 144 to 67 against Ministers—Distressed Unions (Ireland) Bill.

READ A THIRD TIME.—Bribe Duties Bill—Judgments (Ireland) Bill.

IN COMMITTEE.—Stamp Duties Bill—Public Libraries Museums Bill.

FINANCE.—Ordnance Estimates voted.

MOTIONS.—Captain Boldero's motion, that the accommodation for assistant surgeons on board ships of war is inadequate and insufficient, carried by 48 to 40 against Ministers—Lord Duncan's motion for the repeal of the window-tax negatived by 77 to 80.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The House of Commons resumed business on Monday, and the proposal to go into a Committee of Supply at once gave rise to a series of debates on "grievances."

Captain BOLDERO presented a number of petitions complaining of the wretched accommodation for Assistant Surgeons in ships of war. He contrasted the position of an Assistant Surgeon in the army with that of one in the navy. The former, when he joins his regiment, is at once installed a member of the mess, he has a barrack room and a servant, and can pursue his studies at his own convenience. The naval assistant surgeon, when he joins his ship, is turned into the cockpit. His companions are boys, some of them not more than thirteen years of age. He sleeps in a hammock, performs his ablutions in the presence of these boys, has no cabin, no servant, and no proper opportunity of pursuing his professional studies:—

"What is a cockpit? A place in the hold of a ship where the sun never penetrates, where the only light is that of lamps or candles, where an impure atmosphere constantly prevails. The idea of study in such a place, in the midst of middies fond of larking and full of fun, is preposterous! A man who has spent his time at a university in quiet study is not in his proper place there: he is subject to interruption and noise; he has no facilities for referring to the works of science. His spirit is broken; his self-respect is destroyed, and, with it, his self-confidence, one of the first requisites to great undertakings. The chances are that he would acquire habits of drinking, and become utterly heedless of his duty."

To cure these evils, Captain Boldero moved as an amendment to the motion that the Speaker do now leave the chair, that the following words be added:—

"That the accommodation provided for the assistant surgeons on board her Majesty's ships of war is inadequate and insufficient for securing the full benefit of their professional service."

Admiral DUNDAS opposed the amendment, but in doing so he made no attempt to deny Captain Boldero's description of the miserable accommodation provided on board ships of war. The chief point on which he insisted was the number of candidates for the office of assistant surgeon. At present the Admiralty has no less than 263 names on the list. Mr. HUME thought the case one of very gross injustice, and he had no doubt the great majority of the surgeons would complain if they dared to speak out. On a division the motion that the Speaker do now leave the chair was negatived by 48 to 40.

The amendment was then put as a substantive motion; which called up Admiral Berkeley in opposition to it. He could see no reason why Assistant Surgeons should be placed over the heads of their superiors in rank in the navy, and their equals as gentlemen in every way. If they are placed with boys, those boys are educated at Eton and Harrow. Such a step would be one of the greatest blows inflicted upon the naval service. Sir FRANCIS BARING regretted that the House should, by a resolution, create expectations in the minds of these officers, which, he feared, could not be realized. The wish of the House was one thing, but the practicability of the proposal was another. Mr. HUME thought that where there was a will there would be a way. The motion was agreed to.

The motion for going into Committee of Supply having been renewed, Mr. ANSTAY called attention to the illegality of reprisals made in Greece, without the authority of an order in Council—a subject involving the question whether it should be left to a single man—the Foreign Secretary—to plunge this country, by his own act, into a war with other countries of Europe. Lord PALMERSTON contended that no order in Council was necessary in the case of such reprisals as

those lately made in Greece, where vessels had been merely detained as pledges for obtaining redress. Afterwards, in reply to a question from Mr. HUME, Lord PALMERSTON said that, by the last accounts from Athens, Baron Gros, who was acting as mediator on the part of France, was still investigating the matters in dispute.

The House at last went into a Committee of Supply, and Colonel ANSON brought forward the Ordnance Estimates for the present year. From 1845 to 1848 inclusive, he said, there has been a constant increase in the expenditure of this department, amounting altogether, upon the four years, to £992,285. In 1844 the ordnance estimates were only £1,999,958, and in 1848 they had advanced to £2,992,143. But Government was not to blame for this large increase: it had for ten years been pressed by complaints that it was neglecting the security and peace of the country. "In 1845 the aspect of affairs became threatening—the few fortifications we had to rely upon were dismantled, dilapidated, and decayed. If a squadron of foreign steamers had chosen to make their way to any of our principal naval stations, either Portsmouth, Plymouth, Pembroke, or up the Thames, these places were completely open to attack, and an enemy might have committed any aggression he pleased—there was nothing to prevent his vessels coming up the Thames and insulting the Sovereign in the very heart of her dominions." Impressed with these considerations, Government has, for several years, deemed it proper to set apart a sum of money annually for the protection of the coast; and the result is that our sea defences have been made very complete at the most vulnerable points of attack. For the last two years, however, a reduction has taken place in the expenditure under this head. From £2,992,143 in 1848, the estimates were brought down to £2,632,601 in 1849, and this year they would be reduced to £2,434,417; showing a total reduction during the last two years of £557,726. Colonel ANSON moved that the number of men for the ordnance be 14,569, including officers. Mr. HUME was unable to see what need there was for so many men. In 1792 our whole artillery force was only 846 men; in 1828 it had increased to 8682, and now it was said that we required 14,000 men. What has occurred since 1828 to make us need so many more men now than we did then? The present mode of voting the supplies is not the most eligible. Parliament ought to vote, say £10,000,000, and then tell the Government that they must keep the expense of the army, navy, and ordnance within that sum. Colonel CHATTERTON was much pleased with the estimates. So far from reducing the artillery, he would rather increase the efficiency of that important arm of the service.

A desultory conversation arose regarding the various branches of the estimates, but little effective opposition was made to any of them.

The motion for the repeal of the window-tax was brought forward by Lord DUNCAN, and gave rise to some discussion, but nothing new was elicited. In support of the motion it was urged that the present mode of levying taxes on light and air interferes most prejudicially with sanitary reform; that it presses most unequally on the smaller and older houses, on many of which it is five or six times heavier than on newer houses, built expressly to evade the window-tax; that the Health of Towns' Association, comprising several members of Government, in an able report on the subject, denounced the window-tax as worse than a tax on food; and that it was little else than mockery to insert a paragraph about sanitary measures in the Queen's Speech unless this grand obstacle to sanitary improvement were abolished. Sir DE LACY EVANS said he had been informed that in the district with which he was connected, a thousand houses had been recently erected with the number of windows so limited as to avoid the duty. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought that too much stress was laid upon sanitary considerations. He believed that the operation of the tax was, in some degree, prejudicial to health, but the state of the revenue was not so promising that he could afford to give up more than a million and a half sterling, without knowing where to obtain an equivalent. Sir BENJAMIN HALL declared it perfectly useless to issue commissions to inquire into the state of the public health so long as they refused to repeal those taxes which limited the supply of light and air. The house having divided, the motion was negatived by 80 to 77.

Sir JOHN ROMILEY (Solicitor-General) moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide more simple and effectual securities to purchasers of encumbered estates in Ireland. He described the machinery of the bill, the object of which is to induce English capitalists to assist Irish proprietors to purchase land, and then to spend money in improvements:—

"The object to be kept in view was twofold—to give ample security to the capitalist, and yet to leave the proprietor as much unfettered as possible. It was, therefore, proposed that certificates (in the nature of mortgages) should be granted to those who advanced capital to an extent not exceeding half the value of the land, and these certificates (which were to be so simple in form that they might be prepared without legal aid, and

were to be negotiable) were to be a registered charge upon the land itself. But they were not to be a debt as against the proprietor, nor could a Chancery receivership or a common-law execution be founded upon them: but, on the other hand, three months' arrear in payment of interest would entitle the mortgagee to take possession of the land."

The measure was not received with much approbation by the Irish Members, who seemed to suspect that it was devised with a view to juggle Irish landlords. Colonel DUNNE said he would not oppose the introduction of the bill; but he objected to its assisting proprietors only when they should become purchasers, instead of aiding them also in making improvements. Leave was ultimately granted to bring in the bill.

On the second reading of the Charitable Trusts Bill, a short conversation took place regarding its provisions. The object of this measure is to introduce a new mode of dealing with all charities under £100 a year. The number of such charities is nearly 24,000, with an aggregate income of £1,000,000. Those below £30 a year are to be transferred to the judges of the County Courts; those between £30 and £100 will be placed under the jurisdiction of a Master in Chancery, whose decision will be final. The bill was read a second time with very little opposition.

The motion for going into committee on the Public Libraries and Museums Bill was naturally opposed by Colonel SIBTHORP and Mr. NEWDEGATE; by the Colonel, because he thought that if public libraries were required by any class, they ought to be established by subscription, not by forced contributions; and by Mr. Newdegate, because, in the present depressed state of agriculture, he could not consent to give to any local or municipal body the power of raising new rates. Mr. LAW, being a representative of Cambridge, took the same side. The object of the bill, he said, was to enable the wealthier inhabitants of a borough to tax the less influential for the purchase of a library for the Town Council, who were to have its whole management and control in perpetuity. He did not think that such a library would be accessible to the majority of the working people. This objection was well met by Mr. EWART, who pointed to what had taken place in Salford. In the public library lately formed there it was the poorer classes who were chiefly to be found making use of the books; and he had no doubt that it would be the same elsewhere. Mr. WALTER wished to know whether the books were to be lent out, or must they be read in the library? To which Mr. BROTHERTON replied, that that would depend very much on the number of books compared with the number of those who wanted to read them. Mr. BRIGHT ridiculed the objections made by Mr. LAW and Mr. Newdegate. Mr. W. J. FOX said that one great advantage would result from the bill—it would afford the means of providing receptacles for books when collected, and thus remove one great difficulty in forming a library by working men. Colonel Sibthorp's amendment to postpone going into committee was negatived by 99 to 64.

The discussion on the second reading of the County Courts Bill was chiefly remarkable for the opposition given to it by Sir GEORGE GREY and Sir JOHN JERVIS (the Attorney-General), and by the very large majority by which they were defeated. The object of the bill is to give county courts jurisdiction in all cases up to £50: at present it is confined to those under £20. The second reading was carried by 144 to 67; and the bill went into committee.

The Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, passed through committee on Thursday evening, without any discussion of importance, and without any material alteration with reference to the proposition made by Mr. Monsell, for the union of towns and boroughs where the constituencies were very small. Lord JOHN RUSSELL said the subject had been under consideration, but there were many objections to incorporating it in the present bill. He recommended that the suggestion should be reserved for a future session.

The next business of the evening, an Irish bill also, the Distressed Unions Bill, called forth some opposition on the part of several members, who thought Lord John Russell ought not to bring forward a bill for money to Ireland, at so late an hour and in so thin a House. Colonel SIBTHORP decidedly objected to the grant involved in the bill, and moved that it be read a second time that day six months. He complained that certain returns relating to grants and loans to Ireland, moved for in February, were not yet forthcoming:—

"He knew that they had come over from the sister kingdom, and he looked upon their retention as a surreptitious proceeding on the part of the noble lord. He believed that it was done in order to blind members of that House; but he objected to this grant, not from any illiberal or unchristian feeling, but because there was already £8,000,000 owing to the people of this country, and he doubted whether they would ever get it back. Was this to be the last grant? Would the Government say that this was not a bribe—a low, dirty bribe, to please and flatter the Irish people? (A laugh.) The noble lord might set traps and spring guns—'springs to catch woodcocks,' but he would catch no game. (A laugh.)

The Irish were not like the Government dunghills, but were real game cocks, and were not to be caught in this fashion. An important question of this nature ought not to be brought on in this manner at a late hour of the night, and with, in spite of the Treasury whips, a thin House. *Sic volo, sic jubeo*, was the Government motto, but, despite their bugles sounding in every quarter, and their threats of loss of place, they were unable to muster a full House."

LORD JOHN RUSSELL denied that the returns moved for had been received. He could assure the "gallant gentleman" that they were not kept back for any purpose of the Government. Mr. BANKES seemed to agree with Colonel Sibthorp that the measure ought to be brought forward at a time when it was not so exclusively Irish as at that moment. Besides they had been more than once told by Ministers that no more grants to Ireland would be proposed. Lord John Russell said it was an advance, not a grant. Mr. Bankes insisted, however, that it was very much the same, whether brought forward as a loan or a grant, which called forth an indignant "no" from several Irish members. Colonel DUNNE did not think that Ministers could give any guarantee that this would be the last grant; indeed he was convinced that they must go on asking for similar grants so long as the cause for them—the Irish Poor Law—rendered it necessary. Several Irish members replied to the charge of Mr. Bankes, that an advance to Ireland was equal to a grant. Mr. R. M. Fox said it could be shown that, from the time the two exchequers were consolidated up to 1828, the advances out of the consolidated fund to England and Scotland amounted to £16,000,000, of which only £6,000,000 had been repaid, while, during the same period, out of £9,000,000 advanced to Ireland, £7,000,000 were repaid. Lord BERNARD said the House would be doing a great injury to Ireland if they did not pass this measure without any further delay. Sir LUCIUS O'BRIEN said the unions were in a complete fix; the contractors would not go on supplying food, and the wretched paupers must inevitably perish unless immediate steps were taken in the matter. On the motion for the adjournment of the House being put, the numbers were, for the adjournment 23, against it 131; majority 108. Colonel SIBTHORP then moved that the bill be read that day six months, and Mr. SPOONER moved the adjournment of the debate. The latter motion was negatived by 134 to 6, upon which the bill was read a second time, Colonel Sibthorp dissenting.

With reference to Lord John Russell's motion, which was to come on last evening, for a committee on public salaries, Mr. Disraeli gave notice, on Monday evening, of his intention to move as an amendment a resolution to the following effect:—

"That the House is in possession of all information regarding public salaries, and that a Parliamentary committee of inquiry would, under these circumstances, only lead to delay. It is, therefore, the opinion of the House that Government ought, upon their own responsibility, forthwith to introduce any measure necessary for effecting any reductions in our national establishments consistent with the efficient discharge of public services."

We shall give the result of last night's proceedings in our second edition.

In answer to a question from Mr. Buck, it was stated by Mr. BAINES that the master of the Bideford workhouse, from which Mary Parsons was taken, had resigned his situation, so that no inquiry could now be instituted into his conduct.

REFORM MOVEMENTS.

Meetings of the "National Reform Association" have been held at Wisbeach, on Friday and Saturday, the second meeting being crowded with tenant-farmers; at Sheffield, on Monday; at the Educational Institute, Stockwell-green, and at St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, on Tuesday.

At the Sheffield meeting, Sir Joshua Walsley, M.P., and Mr. G. Thompson, M.P., explained the principles of the Association. Sir JOSHUA WALSMLEY said:—

"The association had originated nothing. It had not even engrafted anything new upon that which was old. It had taken up the principles of Earl Grey, of Mr. Pitt, and of the Whigs of more than half a century ago. It had been called into existence by the necessities of the times, and the general desire that a scheme of representative reform, promulgated years ago, should at length be consummated. Among other advantages it promised the saving of the millions worse than uselessly spent on thankless and discontented colonies. He believed that, if a determined call for reform was made, the Ministry would not withstand it; for he believed that they would themselves, if they could, make a rapid advance in the extension of the suffrage. But they required to see the indications of public support. He hoped they would unite with the National Association; and when they should be able to tell the Prime Minister that it had enrolled millions of members, each having paid his shilling, the Parliament would be made to hear and grant that on which they had set their hearts."

At the Stockwell Meeting, Mr. H. Roberts, one of the Council of the Association, took occasion to remark on the unsound notions about taxation in the country:—

"He felt assured that Sir Robert Peel was the man who, when he saw that the country was unanimous in favour of a reform, would be the foremost to step forward to gratify the wishes of the community. He could say the same of Lord John Russell."

"A GENTLEMAN in the body of the meeting, also a member of the council, here interrupted the speaker and said that Mr. Roberts was misrepresenting the opinions of the council as regarded Lord John Russell, and the other members of the Ministry."

"Mr. ROBERTS said that he was merely disclaiming, on the part of the council, any hostility towards Lord John Russell and Sir Robert Peel, and that if the gentleman who had interrupted him had permitted him to proceed, he would have heard that it was the opinion of the council that, no matter how well-intentioned Lord John Russell or the rest of the Government may be, they were unfit to govern the country at the present time. (*Cheers.*) The eyes of the people were not sufficiently directed towards the state of taxation, and they had only to agitate the matter sufficiently to compel the Government to yield to the just demands of the people."

Mr. McEntee told the meeting at St. Ives that the association had very Conservative objects:—

"To put our Queen right before her people, who were loyally attached to her—to pay all men who worked, soldiers, sailors, or civilians, instead of holding out a premium to idleness, and to put that class of most injured Christian gentlemen, the curates of the establishment, in the position they were entitled to, were results the Association sought to accomplish, making the House of Commons a true representation of the people, and not a mere landlord assembly, legislating for their own benefit in opposition to every other industrial interest in the state."

At a meeting of the Council of the Irish Alliance on the 4th of April, Messrs. C. G. Duffy, J. V. M'Grath, and M. R. Leyne, were appointed a deputation to attend the Conference, to be held by the "National Reform Association" in London on the 23rd and 24th instant.

THE MOVEMENTS IN THE CHURCH.

A numerous meeting of the clergy of the archdeaconry of Totnes was held in the Mayoralty-house, at Totnes, on Thursday week, for the purpose of pronouncing in favour of the Bishop of Exeter. Archdeacon Froude occupied the chair, and upwards of 120 clergymen were present. An address to the Bishop of Exeter was carried unanimously, in which the subscribers declared their conviction that the question at issue "involves the integrity of the Catholic faith," and that "the tendency of the recent judgment of the Judicial Committee is to unsettle the faith and produce contradictions in the teaching of the Church, by authorizing subscription to the Articles and Book of Common Prayer in a reserved and non-natural sense." "We are only in the commencement of the fight of faith appointed to us." In the conclusion of the address they speak of the strong feeling which prevails in the Church against submitting its doctrines to the final judgment of "a tribunal neither of her own choosing, nor necessarily composed of her own members." They express a hope that "the present agitation will lead to such an adjustment as will give the Church the power of determining within herself, and by her own duly appointed spiritual representatives, all questions of doctrine and discipline, a power exercised by every other religious body in the empire." A memorial to the Queen was adopted, unanimously praying her to devise "a proper appellate tribunal for determining all questions of doctrine, and other matters purely spiritual." A memorial to the Archbishop of Canterbury was afterwards adopted, in which the memorialists implore him not to allow "one who is openly charged by the bishop of the diocese with holding heresy to exercise cure of souls." They ask him to wait till an ecclesiastical court or synod has given its decision in the matter:—

"We respectfully, but earnestly, implore your Grace to have regard in this weighty matter to the ancient discipline of the Church, and not to risk a breach of Catholic unity by interference in the diocese of a provincial Bishop, so as to withstand his authority therein; but to wait until the point of doctrine at issue has been decided on by a Church court or synod, to which, on such points, in such a case, by Catholic usage, appeal may lawfully be made."

On Thursday week a deputation of the clergy of the archdeaconry of Exeter waited upon the Bishop of Exeter, at his palace, with an address. The Bishop expressed his personal gratification at receiving such a proof of their regard and attachment:—

"He would, under God's providence, rely on the faithfulness and self-devotion of the clergy, convinced that their sense of duty would make them abide closer by the Church; and he would never believe that, though clouds and storms arose, the faithful ministers of the Church would be ever driven from it, driven from the Church established in this realm by law, notwithstanding its being so established, and leave it in hands less faithful."

It is stated in *Woolmer's Exeter Gazette*, that "upwards of one hundred and forty of the clergy of the archdeaconry of Exeter have declared their steadfast adherence to the doctrine of holy baptism."

The clergy of Hull, Beverley, and several other

parts of the East Riding of Yorkshire, have addressed the Archbishop of York, expressing their gratitude for disapproval and sanction of "the wise, dispassionate, and conciliatory decision of the Judicial Committee."

A large and influential meeting of the parishioners of St. Just was held last week, at which a resolution was passed, with only one dissentient, expressing their thanks to the Reverend G. C. GORHAM, and congratulating him on the successful issue of the suit between him and his diocesan; involving, as that suit did, vital Christian truth."

A report of a church festival at Harlow, in Essex, appears in the *Morning Post* of Wednesday, at which some very significant remarks were made by the Reverend Charles Miller, who presided over a dinner party, which was attended by a number of the clergy and gentry of the neighbourhood. In his opening speech he said their principles were "Church and Queen," but, he was sorry to add, not according to the modern version of that phrase. The definition of the constitution of the Church was that "it is entirely independent of the State. Every institution has a revenue, and the Church has a revenue in herself." He protested against the Church's taking "for her own purposes, or for the education of her children, one single shilling of the State money." Queen's letters also he viewed as an invasion of the Church's system. "As she is independent in her endowment, so is she in her jurisdiction altogether independent of the State." He rejoiced to see so much sensitiveness exhibited in respect to some recent encroachments on the constitution of the Church, but it was a pity that that sensitiveness had not manifested itself sooner. The Reverend W. W. Malet, vicar of Ardley, called attention to "the serious invasion of the rights of the Church which took place 300 years ago, in the alienation of the tithes, by which they were made like any other property." After dinner the company proceeded to the church, where evening service was performed. At its close the company, consisting of rich and poor, re-assembled in the barn where they had previously dined, and partook of tea; after which the floor was cleared, and "dancing was kept up with great spirit till nine o'clock," the parishioners then retiring to their homes.

A meeting of a new society called the "First Principles Association," was held at Harlow Vicarage on Tuesday evening, which seems to be another engine of agitation. The *Morning Post* says, "the general object of this association is to unfold and call into action the social and other practical parts of the system of the Church, to point out a remedy for existing evils, and supply an antidote to the false philosophy which has occasioned and is perpetuating them."

"On dit," says the *Devonport Telegraph*, "that the Bishop of Exeter contemplates secession, and that the first free church is to be built under his auspices at Eldad, in connexion with the proposed establishment of the 'Sisters of Mercy.'" [Fudge!]

Information reached town on Monday, which we believe may be depended on, that the Reverend W. Maskell, vicar of Mary Church, Devon, and domestic chaplain to the Bishop of Exeter, had signified his intention of resigning his living this week, preparatory to entering the Church of Rome.—*Standard.*

IMPROVED CONDITION OF IRELAND.

The prevailing accounts from Ireland this week are of a cheerful character. The weekly returns relating to the poor show a further diminution in outdoor relief in those unions where that system has not been given up. In the Limerick union, where outdoor relief has been totally abolished, there is accommodation for large numbers in the workhouses. This looks promising.

In Cork the report is, that "all concerned in agriculture have the fairest prospect of a good season," and that "farmers are in excellent spirits." In King's County several landlords have been reducing their rents, in some instances to the extent of thirty-three per cent. A general movement in this direction is wanted before any great improvement can take place in the condition of Irish farmers.

The tenant movement is making rapid progress in the midland counties. At a meeting held at Mullingar last week, the Roman Catholic vicar-general in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"That, alarmed at the gradual annihilation of landholders in this county, owing principally to the continuance of high rents, entirely disproportionate to the price of produce, we hereby pledge ourselves to use every constitutional exertion to secure a reduction of rent, and a fair adjustment of the relations between landlord and tenant."

In Westmeath a central committee has been appointed to make the necessary arrangements for a public meeting on the same subject; and in the county of Cork the Roman Catholic clergy are said to be taking prominent part in the movement.

In speaking of Mr. Poulett Scrope's proposed motion for a committee to inquire into the administration of the poor-law in the Kilrush Union, the *Chers*

Journal says, that the guardians are exceedingly anxious that such an inquiry should be instituted, in order that they may have an opportunity of showing the abuses connected with the out-door relief system. One gentleman states that many apparently pauper tenants, who owed heavy arrears, and whom he considered unable to keep their holdings, came to him when they understood they were about to be disposed of, and paid down in gold, not only all the old arrears, but the rent up to the present month, that they might be allowed to retain their holdings.

The Irish papers are filled with notices of the sale and transfer of encumbered estates. One journal contains no less than sixty-five official advertisements upon this subject, and twenty-six actual sales are set down for this month. The promptitude with which the sales are conducted in the Encumbered Estates Court is very satisfactory, and contrasts forcibly with the law's delay under the old system. On Tuesday an amusing instance of this occurred in the sale of two small farms:—

"Ballycurrane, containing thirty-five statute acres; and Cahirbane, a piece of land about the same dimensions: both in the county of Clare. Two of the bidders for this lot, which was put up in two separate divisions, were tenant-farmers. One of them, the occupying tenant, an intelligent-looking young man, named Michael Behan, dressed in a frieze coat, started, to the amusement of the court, with an offer of £20 for the lands of Ballycurrane, but was finally declared the purchaser for both lots, at the respective prices of £150 and £160.

"When asked if he would be ready with his deposit of £50, he said he was prepared with a check on the Bank of Ireland for the amount.—(Laughter).

"Baron Richards: 'We are not so sharp altogether as to require your money on the spot; but if you are in such a hurry as you appear to be, come in the course of the day, and you may pay your deposit, take your deed of transfer, and we shall conclude the transaction at once.'"

A Dublin paper remarks that there is a very remarkable decrease in the amount of civil bills for the recovery of small debts, at the quarter sessions. This looks as if the peasantry were beginning to lose their love of litigation. If so it is a good symptom.

AGRICULTURAL STRIKES AND INCENDIARY FIRES.

The spirit of insubordination among the agricultural labourers appears to be spreading. On Monday week the labourers at Stisted and Pattiswick, whose wages had been reduced a shilling a week, went round the neighbourhood in a riotous manner, obliging all those whom they found at work to join them. One farmer, who had made himself very unpopular, narrowly escaped a ducking; and when the Reverend Mr. Forster endeavoured to convince the rioters that they were in the wrong they tore his coat off his back. On Tuesday they assembled again, but the country constabulary having been mustered against them the rioters were dispersed, and many of them promised to return to their work.

In the parish of Cotgrave the agricultural labourers struck work on account of an attempted reduction of wages eight or nine weeks ago. The farmers offer 9s. a week, and the labourers refuse to resume work unless they receive 10s. We have not seen it mentioned that any reduction of rent has taken place in the parish of Cotgrave. The farmers probably think it easier to reduce wages than to obtain a reasonable reduction of rent. With such causes of popular exasperation as are thus produced it will not surprise any one to learn that the crime of incendiarism continues to exist in the rural districts.

A most destructive incendiary fire broke out on the evening of the 4th, at Cottenham, near Cambridge, which laid waste nearly forty farms and cottages. It commenced soon after eight o'clock, in a barn, and as a strong breeze was blowing from the west, the flames spread rapidly. Such assistance as the village could render was given immediately, but it was eleven o'clock before an express reached Cambridge for the engines. The people worked manfully while any chance remained, but at last stood and looked on in despair. Farm after farm, cottage after cottage, fell before the devouring element, till, by three o'clock in the morning, it seemed as if half the village was consumed. The fire, however, had been capricious in its course, for here and there was to be seen a house almost uninjured in the very midst of the smoking ruins. A vast quantity of poultry and pigs was destroyed, but fortunately no human lives were lost; the horses and neat stock were also saved. Of course many poor families are rendered homeless, and several have lost all their little store of furniture. Eighteen farms, besides cottages, three public houses, and a Methodist chapel, are destroyed. The property is nearly all insured.

At Witham, in Essex, a very destructive fire broke out, on Tuesday night week, on a part of the Wickham-hall estate, by which forty sheep, seventeen bullocks, and fifty quarters of corn were burnt. The *Chelmsford Chronicle* says, "It has not been ascertained how the fire originated; but there is reason to fear that it was the work of an incendiary, as the buildings appear to have been fired at a corner most favourable for the wind to ensure certain destruction."

At Kingsthorpe, near Northampton, a hayrick was wilfully set on fire, on Wednesday evening, by two youths, in a destitute condition, in order, as they stated, that they might be taken into custody. They were accordingly committed to the county gaol, where they

will, no doubt, be kept, at the expense of the ratepayers, on better fare than the hard-working labourer can obtain.

A haystack, containing about four tons, belonging to Mr. Sanders, at Coxheath, was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. Two young men named Sears have been apprehended on suspicion of their having set fire to it.

Two destructive fires at Crediton, on Friday, are reported in the *Western Luminary*. One of them, which burned down six cottages, is said to have been the work of an incendiary, as there was no fire in the house where it originated, and the flame was first discovered under the eaves.

THE LIVERPOOL ROSCOE CLUB.

A soiree and ball in aid of the funds of the Roscoe Ragged Schools were given by the members and friends of the Roscoe Club, in the Liverpool Town-hall, on the evening of Tuesday week. Among the guests were Mr. Cardwell, M.P., Mr. Roebuck, M.P., Lord and Lady Sefton, Mr. Charles Mackay, I.L.D., Mr. Frederic Hill, Inspector of Prisons, Sir Thomas Birch, M.P., and a number of the leading gentlemen of the town. Before the ball a pleasing and interesting account of the Ragged School and its origin was given by Mr. A. C. Stewart. Mr. Hill and Mr. Cardwell also addressed the assembly on the importance of education as the most powerful means of preventing crime.

A Liverpool correspondent gives us an account of the club, which will be read with interest by all who wish to see the benefits of association becoming more rapidly diffused throughout the community:—

"The Roscoe Club is a similar institution to the Whittington Club in London, and was a consequence of the formation of the Whittington. Its organization is decidedly communistic, and combines a greater number of physical, intellectual, and moral comforts, and means for mental improvement than were enjoyed by the best of our late social institutions; with the exceptions that females are not received as members or allowed to attend the club. Dancing is not allowed, and religious doctrines and party politics are not to be discussed there. Refreshments of every kind are provided and sold to the members as in London at the Whittington. Gymnastics, cricket, billiards, chess, drafts, music, singing, &c., are allowed and practised. There is a library, news-room, and reading-room, well provided with papers and publications edited by all parties. There is a weekly meeting for discussion, at which Communism and the formation of character have been freely debated among many other interesting subjects. There is a fortnightly conversation also, at which a short lecture is delivered, which is afterwards criticized by the audience; and the remainder of the evening is devoted to music and singing. There are various language and scientific classes, who hold their meetings in the rooms appropriated to these purposes at the Club-house in Clayton-square.

"The Ragged Schools were begun by voluntary subscriptions among the members and others, and are taught by some of the young members gratuitously. They have about sixty pupils, outcasts of society; and the ball was got up for the purpose of assisting their funds; the tickets were sold at 10s. each, for ball and refreshments."

THE CAPE AND THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

The Anti-Convict Association has triumphed. On the 14th of February it was officially announced, that, in Cape Town, the destination of the convicts on board the *Neptune* had been changed from the Cape to Van Diemen's Land; and that the Queen had been advised to revoke the order in Council by which the sending of convicts to the Cape was rendered legal. In his despatches Lord Grey reviews the proceedings which have taken place, and explains the grounds upon which Government had acted:—

"I need hardly remind you," he says, "that in the circular despatch which I addressed to the Governors of different colonies to which it appeared to me that convicts, when they became entitled to tickets of leave, might be sent with advantage, I did not contemplate that this measure should be adopted with respect to colonies which had not originally been established as penal colonies, and in which it should appear that the inhabitants were opposed to it. But about the time when this circular was written a very serious difficulty arose as to the disposal of certain Irish convicts who had been transported to Bermuda, for offences committed during the pressure of the famine in Ireland, occasioned by the failure of the potatoes. It was of urgent importance to remove some of these men from Bermuda, as it was found that they were entirely unsuited to undergo the discipline and labour which are there enforced. It was necessary, therefore, that they should be removed. But at that time the state of things was such in Van Diemen's Land, from the very large number of convicts who had been sent there in the years preceding 1846, that there was no prospect that, if sent to that colony with tickets of leave, they would have been able to find employment, and to maintain themselves by their labour."

It was also desirable that these Irish convicts should not be placed with ordinary criminals, as they were in general "peasants, who, under the pressure of extreme want, had committed depredations, which, though they could not be passed over without punishment, yet implied comparatively little moral degradation." This was also a reason why there should be no objection to their being received in colonies where convicts are not usually sent:—

"Under this impression I recommended that the convicts in question (to whom were afterwards added some others, specially recommended for indulgence on account of their peculiar good conduct or length of detention without committing any fault) should be removed to the Cape without waiting till your answer to my circular despatch could be received, believing that in doing so I was not departing in any degree from the spirit of that circular which referred to the adoption of a permanent system. The letter, indeed, in which I informed you of the special intended measure to meet the immediate emergency bears the same date as the circular, and was forwarded by the same opportunity. With the information now before me, I greatly lament that this step should have been taken. Had I been aware how strong was the feeling which existed at the Cape on this subject, I should not have advised the measure which was adopted; but I confess I fell into the error of supposing that, whatever might be the objection felt to receiving convicts as an ordinary practice (an objection which I readily admit to be founded on feelings that are entitled to respect), there would still be amongst the inhabitants of the Cape so much regard for the general interest of the British nation, to which they had just been indebted for such truly generous assistance, and also so much of common humanity towards the unfortunate men as to whom the difficulty had arisen, that it might safely be calculated that they at least would be received without opposition. This is an error which I acknowledge, and which I greatly lament."

In the meantime, after the order for the removal of the convicts from Bermuda, Lord Grey received from Sir Harry Smith his first intimation of the strong feeling among the Cape colonists. Then no time was lost by Government in announcing that no more convicts should be sent out. This, it was presumed, would content the colonists:—

"Your despatch of the 29th of June, which was received in this office on the 14th of September, contained the first intimation which reached me of the violence of the opposition which was likely to be made to the reception of even the convicts sent in the *Neptune*; and this despatch showed that at its date you still contemplated receiving these convicts on shore, and providing for their reception until further instructions could be received, apparently without anticipating any difficulty in doing so. Three days later (that is, on the 17th of September) your despatch of the 24th of July (No. 123) was received, from which I learnt to what a height excitement had risen; and that, in consequence of the extraordinary proceedings which had taken place, you had, most undesignedly as I think, publicly announced your determination not to permit the landing of the convicts hourly expected by the *Neptune*."

This despatch the Colonial Secretary did not immediately answer, because he waited for further intelligence, and because he thought the difficulty must be disposed of before his answer could be received:—

"It did not ever occur to me as possible that you could take the course of detaining these people on board the *Neptune* until you could receive further instructions, since this would involve the probability of their being so detained for nearly four months, the shortest time in which you could calculate on an answer to your despatch. I felt the more confident that in one way or another the question as to how these persons were in the first instance to be disposed of must have been determined long before you could hear from me, because I could not believe that, however strong might be the feeling of the colonists against the Government for the measures which had been adopted, they would visit those measures on the heads of these unfortunate men, whose lives might be endangered by such protracted confinement."

After this review the despatch orders the removal of the convicts to Van Diemen's Land, announces the revocation of the unpopular order in Council, and concludes thus:—

"I forbear to express my opinion either on the extraordinary proceedings of the inhabitants of the Cape or upon your own conduct; on the former because I am unwilling to use the terms which would alone adequately describe what I think of their proceedings—on your own conduct, because I have not yet received your explanation of the grounds upon which you acted, and because I should be unwilling to pass any judgment, prematurely, upon your course, in circumstances of undoubtedly great and unprecedented difficulty."

The Anti-Convict Association met on the 14th, to congratulate the colonists on the stainless triumph achieved by their zeal, courage, firmness, and self-control. Resolutions were passed for the resumption of intercourse with the Government, and the discontinuance of "the signs of mourning" in the shops; recommending an illumination and other rejoicings; proposing subscriptions to indemnify those individuals who had "nobly abandoned their contracts with convict-supporting departments," and to provide some comforts for the convicts on board the *Neptune*; and thanking Mr. Adderley for his defence of the colonists. Another resolution ran thus:—

"That this meeting does not think it necessary to offer any remarks on the offensive expressions used in reference to their proceedings by Earl Grey, in his last despatches, as they feel that they are wholly undeserved; and as they are fully prepared and resolved to follow the same course, should his lordship, or any of his successors in office, ever threaten them with a similar insult or wrong."

A later despatch from Lord Grey makes some

amends to Sir Harry Smith for the rebuke implied in the despatch above quoted, the Governor's explanation being satisfactory to her Majesty's Government: "I have to signify to you her Majesty's approval of the course you felt it necessary to adopt."

In consideration of what the convicts have undergone, conditional pardons will be granted to them on their arrival in Van Diemen's Land; "the case of Michel, which is quite distinct from that of all the others," being reserved for separate consideration.

FRANCE, HER FINANCES, COERCIONS, AND PORTENTS.

The new budget of the French Minister of Finance has been laid on the table of the Assembly, but it does not seem to have excited much discussion among the French papers. In his statements M. FOULD showed that the object of the budget of 1851 was to make the income equal to the expenditure, to relieve the agricultural classes of a part of the taxation which presses exclusively on them, and to render the fiscal burdens more equitable in their pressure. In order to relieve agriculture, he proposed to reduce the impôt foncier to the extent of 27,000,000 francs, rather more than £1,000,000. The local burdens also, which have been greatly augmented of late, and which amounted to 130,000,000 francs in ten departments, are to be reduced; also the registry duties; the latter to the extent of 6,000,000 francs. Among those taxes in which some modification is to take place, are the taxes on doors and windows. The duties on sugar and coffee are to be reduced. To make up for the loss of revenue arising from these changes, new taxes are to be imposed on powder and shot, on cards and certain chemical products, by which an increase of about 48,000,000 francs is anticipated. M. Fould also proposes to sell 50,000 hectares of forest land belonging to the state, by which questionable expedient he expects to receive 56,000,000 francs, and from these and the usual sources of income he calculates that the total revenue of 1851 will be 1,292,000,000 francs, which would give a surplus of 8,000,000 above the estimated expenditure. But that, as he remarked, depends upon the maintenance of order. In the event of any serious disturbance to shake public confidence, the income would inevitably fall off, while the expenditure would necessarily increase.

The most unsatisfactory part of the budget is the very small reduction which he proposes to make in the army estimates. In 1848 the cost of the army was 420,000,000 francs, upwards of £12,000,000. Since that year it has been reduced to 314,000,000 francs, and will now experience a further reduction of 12,000,000 francs, leaving still, however, an expenditure of nearly £9,000,000 a year for the maintenance of an army in a time of peace.

The first reading of the bill for the transportation and close imprisonment of political offenders was carried on the 5th, in the French Assembly, after a fierce debate, by 431 to 217 votes. In a long and most eloquent speech M. VICTOR HUGO opposed the measure. He commenced by recalling the days of February, among which the most admirable was that one when mouths yet black with biting off the ends of cartridges joined in one cry of clemency. The decree of the abolition of death-punishment for political offences contained within it the germ of a whole code, leading logically to the entire abolition of the extreme penalty. Yet now the Government asked them to retrace their way, and under the modest title of "law of transportation" proposed to them a law which public opinion had already construed in a single line—*The re-establishment of death-punishment for political questions*. The authors of the law denied this; they said there was a gap in the penal code which it was necessary to fill up; they had to substitute some punishment for that of death. How would they do this? They had sought out a climate known as the tomb of Europeans; they combined climate, exile, and imprisonment; instead of one executioner they would have three. They were restoring death-punishment; let them quit their wordy precautions, their hypocritical phraseology, and be at least sincere. Doubtless they desired not merely a severe law, but one which could be executed; but there were limits of punishment beyond which the legislator could not pass. These sacred limits were traced by the finger of God in the human conscience; the moment the law endeavoured to transgress them it would meet the opposition of society. The tribunals would hesitate, the juries would acquit, the law would be a dead letter under the very eyes of the Judges. Though they built their iniquities in granite, a breath would throw them down—the breath of universal opinion. Over-severity renders a law powerless. But, supposing they should have the misfortune of carrying their law into execution, two questions would remain—the occasion and the necessity for it. Did he forget the 15th of May, the 23rd and the 13th of June? Was it not necessary to intimidate such attempts, and, as the revolution of February had deprived them of the guillotine, to find for it the best substitute they could? For himself he disavowed and condemned those rebellions. The right of the suffrage had abolished the right of insurrection.

Universal suffrage put an end to revolutions. Society ought to be protected; but to do that there was no occasion for a new penalty. The law of transportation in the penal code was sufficient both for intimidation and punishment. Let them look at the power which the existing law conferred. A man condemned by a special tribunal for the most uncertain of all crimes—a political crime, by (*Murmurs from the Right*). When he so qualified political justice, he was but the echo of history: This man, so condemned, this criminal according to some, this hero according to others—(*Explosion of murmurs from the Right*).

The President.—When judgment is pronounced the criminal is a criminal for all the world; he can only be a hero to his accomplices.

M. Victor Hugo would remark to the President that Marshal Ney, judged in 1815, had been pronounced a criminal, yet, in his eyes, Ney was a hero, though he was not his accomplice. (*Prolonged applause*.) To resume: the criminal, or the hero, is seized in the midst of his renown, his influence, and his popularity, torn from his family and country, rooted out from all his interests and affections, and flung into darkness and silence, at a distance from his native soil. There he is kept, alone, a prey to his regrets if he thinks himself necessary to his country, to his remorse if he feels that he had been fatal to it. There he is detained, free, but guarded, escape impossible, unable to injure, or to influence, in isolation, impotence and oblivion, uncrowned, disarmed, broken, and annihilated. "And this does not suffice for you!"

"This man, vanquished, proscribed, condemned by fortune, you desire to shut up. You would do that nameless thing which no legislation has yet done; joining to the tortures of exile the tortures of a prison, multiplying rigour by cruelty. It is not enough for you to have put this man under a tropical sky; you would wall him up alive in a fortress, which even at this distance has so gloomy an aspect that you, who have built, are not sure how you shall baptize it, not knowing whether it is a dungeon or a tomb. You desire that slowly, day by day, and hour by hour, this soul, this intelligence, this activity, this yet living ambition, four thousand leagues from the country, under that stifling sun, under the horrible weight of that prison-sepulchre, should writhe, and waste, and consume itself. It is monstrous. I protest against it in the name of humanity! Ah, you are pitiless and heartless. What you call an expiation I call a martyrdom; what you call justice I denounce as an assassination."

"Rise, then, Catholics, priests, bishops, men of religion, who sit in this Assembly. It is your duty. What are you doing on your benches? To the tribune, and with the authority of your holy creeds, with the authority of your traditions, tell these inventors of cruel measures, these applauders of barbarous laws, that what they do is bad, detestable, and impious. Remind them that Christ came into the world bringing a law of kindness, and not of cruelty; tell them that the day when the Man-God suffered the punishment of death he abolished it, because he showed that the foolishness of human justice could strike not only an innocent but a divine head. Tell the authors and defenders of this law—tell these politicians that it is not by torturing the wretched in a cell four thousand leagues from their country that they can quiet the public streets."

"I said there would be three executioners. I forgot a fourth—the director of the Penitentiary. Have you taken into account the sort of man he must almost necessarily be who, in the face of the civilized world, will accept the moral charge of so odious an establishment, who will consent to be the gravedigger of this prison, the gaoler of this tomb? St. Helena produce Hudson-Lowes. Figure to yourselves the refinements of torture which a man of that temperament could invent for men who have not the glory of Napoleon. In our prisons in France, when an abuse arises, when an iniquity is attempted, the cry of the prisoner can reach the Government and the people through the double echo of the press and the tribune. But in your citadel, in the Marquesas, the sufferer will be reduced to sigh mournfully—Ah, if the people but knew it! There, at that dreadful distance, in the silence of that walled-up solitude, where human voice comes not nor departs, to whom shall the wretched prisoner complain? Who shall hear him? Between his complaint and you will be the noise of all the waves of ocean; the shadow and the silence of death will overhang this frightful political bulk; nothing will transpire, nothing will reach you, nothing save, from time to time, the mournful news traversing the sea to France and Europe—Such a one is dead. * * * I have examined what are called reasons of state. I recall all the evil counsels they have already given. Marat invoked them as well as Louis XI. For me, I will have neither the policy of the guillotine, nor the policy of power, neither that of Marat, nor that of Haynau, nor that of your law of transportation. I am of those who will never hesitate between that virgin whom men call Conscience, and that prostitute they call State-policy. I see plainly that I am 'only a poet.'"

"Should it be possible for this law to pass, it would be a mournful spectacle,—violence in the Senate contrasting with wisdom in the streets, statesmen showing themselves blind and passionate where the people had shown themselves intelligent and just. In proclaiming mercy in February the people shut the door of revolutions, with your decrees of vengeance you reopen it. You say the law is intended for the future. For whom do you make it? The sword of political punishment belongs not to justice but to chance. * * * I am de-

fending you. You may shut your eyes to the future; but will you shut them to the past? Had the two last revolutions been overcome by royalty, and your law of transportation been then existing, Charles X. would have applied it to M. Thiers, and Louis Philippe to M. Odilon Barrot."

M. Barrot indignantly denied that he had ever conspired against any government.

M. Hugo resumed: "I did not speak of justice, but of political and party judgments. * * * Look and reflect! Who regained the throne of France in 1814? The exile of Hartwell. Who reigned after 1830? The proscribed of Reichenau, to-day the banished of Claremont. Who governs at this moment? The prisoner of Ham. Now pass your laws of proscription! * * * When men put injustice in a law, God puts justice there, and strikes with the law the men who make it."

M. Hugo concluded with an energetic protest against whatever could tend to inflame the dissensions of France:—"Let us seek together, and cordially, the solution of the problem of civilization placed before us. Our fathers had only to serve France, we have to save it. We have not time for hate."

M. ROUBER, Minister of Justice, defended the utility of the bill. The crimes it was intended to punish were those which had been formerly subjected to the penalty of death, the crimes of men who excited to civil war, and advocated devastation and pillage:—

"Perpetual imprisonment was not commensurate with such offences. He had heard an individual say from the tribune of that Assembly—'I have conspired for twenty years; I have succeeded, and I shall not conspire again.' Such language was odious. When a criminal has stained the streets with blood; when he made an appeal to civil war"—

On the Left: "Boulogne!" (*Loud interruption.*)

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: "When he made an appeal to civil war!"

Another voice on the Left: "Strasbourg!" (*Violent murmurs on the Right.*)

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: "He would perhaps feel some shame in appealing to those reminiscences after the elections of the 10th of December. Had the justice of the country, he would ask, remained powerless? Had there been no condemnation?"

M. CHARRAS: "For Strasbourg? No!"

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE: "Did not the prisoner, on the threshold of his prison, deplore the attack which he had made against the laws of his country? He had redeemed his past conduct, and an end should be put to that system of degrading the Government, which attacked it even when it proceeded from the majority of the nation." (*Loud approbation.*)

The President, addressing the Mountain: "The Government of the Republic itself finds no favour with you, because it is a Government." (*Laughter and applause.*)

M. EMMANUEL ARAGO, in reply to the Minister of Justice, read a speech uttered by M. Odilon Barrot in 1835, which denounced the imprisonment of transported criminals as something even worse than the *carcere duro* of Austria. Referring to the chances of pardon, M. Arago said—"Calculate the time necessary to transmit this pardon, and, when you grant it, it will go forth to find a corpse."

The debate closed after a heated discussion, continually interrupted, the President himself not refraining from offensive remarks.

The outbreak which occurred at Limoges, in consequence of the punishment of an adjutant who had voted for the Democratic candidates at the recent election, is spoken of by the *Sicile* as a serious affair, and an indication of the general feeling of the army. The Limoges papers also allude to it as serious, with the exception of the Government paper, the *Courrier de Limoges*, which asserts it to have been only a trifling incident. "A sub-officer, when leaving to join a regiment in Africa, was accompanied as far as the bridge by some of his comrades. A handful of well-known Democrats collected round them, and raised some cries in honour of Socialism. One of the officers desired the soldiers to return to their respective quarters, which they immediately did. That is the whole affair."

The non-commissioned officers in garrison at Valenciennes deny the statement of the *Republicain du Nord*, that they are imbued with Socialist opinions.

The municipal guard at Lyons is to be reorganized in order to render it more efficient for the preservation of public order.

A letter from Belle Ile of March 30th states, that lodgings are prepared there for 400 of the most violent of the political criminals detained in prison in France.

M. Proudhon's journal, the *Voix du Peuple*, has again been seized, for an article on the Budget, "calculated to excite hatred and contempt against the Government."

The *Napoléon* intimates that in case the approaching election for Paris be of the same kind as on the 10th of March, a revision of the electoral law will become necessary. The paragraph is worth giving. "An Electoral law which would continue to produce such results is already judged. Society must demand its reform. The constitution has only proposed the principal of election, the law fixes its conditions. It is from a new law that society will have to demand

precautions and guarantees against a similar surprise."

An ukase of General Géméau, dated March 31, prohibits the sale of a number of Socialist pamphlets, among others one by Armand Barbès, in the Sixth Military Division. Chenu's new libel, "The Montagnards of 1848," is, however, permitted by the censors.

A letter from Rouen states that serious disturbances took place in that town on Monday night last, in consequence of the mayor having forbidden the representation of the "Juif Errant." An immense mob having joined some rioters who had been expelled from the theatre, the troops were called out. The cavalry having charged the crowd, the people fled, and a number of the leaders were arrested.

Accounts from Limoux, Aude, state that the troops were called out there on Saturday night, in consequence of alarm created by a tumultuous mob parading the streets, singing revolutionary songs.

The departmental journals continue to give accounts of incendiarianism. A part of the communal forest of Bordères, near Tarbes, has just been destroyed. On Tuesday week four fires took place in the neighbourhood of Soissons. The most considerable was that on the farm of a M. Fortville, at Pasly. The stables, barns, and other outhouses, with all they contained, were destroyed; the dwelling-house alone escaped. So determined were the incendiaries to effect their purpose, that a rivulet which ran before the house, and the water of which would have served to have extinguished the fire, was on the previous evening turned from its course. Dommières, Ambleu, and Juvigny have also suffered. At Seurre (Cote d'Or) on Sunday a fire broke out, and before it could be got under two houses were destroyed. Soon afterwards, when all the people had returned to their homes, a second fire was discovered, which in a short space of time completely destroyed seventeen cottages. During the night several other fires were seen in different parts of the country.

RENEWAL OF RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

A reconciliation has at last taken place between Lord Palmerston and General Narvaez, and diplomatic relations will be immediately renewed. General Narvaez disclaims having ever entertained any idea hostile to England, or even to Sir H. Bulwer; and declares that the only thing wanting to complete the new amicable arrangement is his being able to grasp his former friend by the hand at such a happy moment. The Paris correspondent of the *Times* pretends to give an account of the manner of the reconciliation in "very nearly the words of General Narvaez himself":—

"The great affair is arranged—the courier left Madrid on Sunday, taking with him my adhesion to the slight changes made by Lord Palmerston in the note that we are to present officially. These changes are as follows:—We said in the note, 'There never existed on the part of the Spanish Government the remotest intention of offering any offence whatever to England, to the Queen of England, or to the English Government.' Lord Palmerston made only the change of a single word in the phrase, viz., 'Any offence whatever to Great Britain.' admitted.

"That the resolution adopted (respecting Sir Henry Bulwer) was so adopted with much regret, and forced by the grave circumstances of the moment." Lord Palmerston suggested the word 'alarming' instead of 'grave.' Admitted.

"The English Government will add, and the Spanish Government admits beforehand, this (regret) with respect to Sir Henry Bulwer.

"The Government of her Britannic Majesty would desire the return to Madrid of Sir Henry Bulwer, whose services have not for a single instant ceased to be agreeable and useful; but, charged as he is with an important mission elsewhere, the Government of her Britannic Majesty renounces re-accrediting him, &c."

Lord Howden is to be the new Ambassador.

ERFURT PARLIAMENT.

The very preliminaries at Erfurt betoken weakness. M. Radowicz has proposed to the Committee of the Lower House (engaged in revising the Constitution previously to its being submitted to the House), that the 10th article, which asserts the right of making war or peace to belong exclusively to the Federal Executive, should be deferred, as it had been inserted in the Constitution on the assumption that a larger number of the German States would join the Union. His proposal was unanimously rejected, the Committee not being disposed to allow Prussia thus to back out of her own federation. The reason of the changed tone of Prussia is obvious enough. The principal German States refusing their adhesion, she is no longer strong enough to substitute the new Confederation for that of 1815, in order to overtop the influence of Austria. M. CARLOWITZ admitted this in repeating M. Radowicz's proposal to the Upper House. He said the position of Prussia was a difficult one. Austria, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurtemberg, and Hanover, regarded it with distrust, and, unless the Constitution should be altered in the points recommended, even the recognition of France and England could not be expected. M. Carlowitz was

met by a storm of bitter sarcasm, in which the conduct of Prussia was denounced as lukewarm and treacherous. So differences commenced already, albeit the dejected Committees proceeded with their labours.

In the sitting of March the 3d, M. RADOWITZ stated that he would bring his proposition, though rejected by the Committee, before the House. The question being raised whether such alteration of the Constitution would not give those states which dissented a right to withdraw from the Union, M. RADOWITZ confessed that it would, and that the federal Court of Arbitration would be obliged to confirm the right of such withdrawal. M. SIMON, the President, assented to this view. M. CAMPHAUSEN then read the report of the conclusions of the Committee. He advised the acceptance of the Constitution en bloc; the alterations made in the Committee's revision to be only presented to the House, not to be voted, but sent to the several Governments for their approval; and, failing such approval, the alterations to be struck out. So that the dissent of one Government might make the whole a nullity. The rest of the proceedings was total confusion; different parts of the report were approved by different sections of the Committee, but none of them were supported by votes enough to be carried, even with the advocacy of M. RADOWITZ, so that in the end all the paragraphs of the report were rejected, leaving this curious result, that the Committee can only report a bare account of its labours, without any recommendation of the course the House should take.

So commences the new Prussian endeavour at German unity. The outer prospect is no more promising. Bremen has resolved not to respect any resolution of the "German Parliament" until Hanover and Oldenburg shall have entered the federation. Hesse-Darmstadt is also about to withdraw.

THE GREEK QUARREL.

Lord Palmerston's quarrel with Greece seems likely to be settled amicably.

Baron Gros (the French Envoy) and Mr. Wyse have, it is said, agreed upon the basis of an arrangement. The demand of Don David Pacifico, which has been pressed with a very absurd importance, is shown to be enormous. Though he claims for plate and jewels lost on the day the mob entered his house, there are even now in the Bank of Athens articles of silver pledged by him; and there is still extant in Athens a subscription list opened for his relief some while before he was "plundered." A "valuable" deed, giving him a claim upon the Portuguese Government, appears also to have been only his own protest signed before a notary, and the probable amount of indemnification that he was likely to get from Portugal is shown to be something under £200. Another claim for indemnity, on account of land resumed by the Greek Government from Mr. Finlay, is also proved to be much exaggerated.

If Baron Gros should fail in bringing this matter to a satisfactory issue, the fate of Greece will be critical. Lord Palmerston's last instructions, it is said, are, that Admiral Parker, failing the arrangement, is to blockade the whole coast of Greece.

The commerce of the country has already greatly suffered, the crops have been destroyed by the frost, and it is calculated that the revenue will fall very short. Should Sir William Parker put the blockade in force, nothing can save the country from severe suffering. The greatest exasperation against England prevails at Athens.

AMERICAN NEWS-BOYS.

A grand meeting of news-boys in the Park, New York, is reported in the *New York Tribune*. The cause of the demonstration was a chapel meeting, at which the police were urged to arrest all boys found selling papers on the Sabbath. The boys erected a platform, hired a band of music, and engaged speakers, altogether conducting their meeting in a style worthy of old hands. Several animated speeches were made, and resolutions were passed to this effect:—

"That society owes all, especially (the young, a living; that, as at present organized, society is their oppressor, making honest labour less honourable than sensual idleness, punishing misfortune as a crime, and identifying poverty with vice; that the news-boys, many having widowed mothers and helpless sisters to support, are up before the dawn in every season, and traverse all day long many weary miles through the streets, unfily clothed, coarsely fed, exposed to burning suns, drenching storms, and pinching frost, for a yearly pittance which would not buy the first month's outfit of a baby of aristocracy; that the day of rest is no dearer to others than to the news-boy, giving (if he had it) time to think of loving God and his neighbour, and not leaving him unceasingly engaged in a mere struggle for existence; that a committee be appointed to confer with the Hope Chapel Committee, to obtain their cooperation in an effort for the prohibition, on the Sabbath, of carriage-driving to church or elsewhere, of cooking, &c., and of church bell-ringing; for enforcing the closing of gas-houses, and the shutting off of water, as well as for the stoppage of newspaper crying and selling; and that clergymen receiving more than ten dollars a week be requested to pay over the surplus into a general fund, to

be employed in procuring for the news-boys a good bath for every Saturday evening, a clean shirt for the Sabbath, suitable clothes for attending Sabbath school, and a compensation equal to that which they obtain by the sale of newspapers."

At the conclusion of the meeting the boys left the ground in procession, with their band of music at their head.

A WHITE SAVAGE.

An interesting narrative appears in the *Times*, recounting the discovery of a young Scotchwoman who was found living among the natives of an island (supposed to be Prince Edward Island), an offshoot of the Australian group, where she had been for the last four or five years. The account is extracted from the journal of a Mr. Applin, who was on board the vessel that brought her away. This vessel had been sent with stores to her Majesty's ships Rattlesnake and Bramble, and it was while at Cape York, on the way to Labuan, that the crew first heard of the White savage. She came to see them, accompanied by some of the Natives; and is thus described:—

"She appears to be about twenty-one or twenty-two years of age, of rather a slight figure, and, I think, decidedly good-looking. She was naked, with the exception of a grass girdle round her waist, after the fashion of the native women of those parts, and in her carriage and walk resembled them completely; her hair was short and skin clear, and not disfigured in any way except by a burn which she had accidentally received, but which had left a large ugly scar on the inside of the left thigh and arm. She had forgotten a great deal of her native tongue, but, as well as she could, she told us the following:—That she was born in Scotland; that her name was Barbara Crawford; that her father was a tinsmith, living in Kent-street, Sydney; that about four or five years ago, as well as she could recollect (but of this she had a very indistinct idea), she ran away from Sydney with a man named William Alexander Thompson, where he married her; that he was the master of a small cutter called the American; and that on her passage through Torres Straits, on their way to Port Essington, they were wrecked, and that some natives, observing them, swam off through the surf and succeeded in saving her; the remainder were either drowned or died in consequence of exposure or injuries received when wrecked. She said that the Natives treated her with the greatest kindness, and have continued to do so up to the present moment, never having offered her any indignity, or taken any liberties with her except in the solitary instance of an old chief, when his sons and her friends immediately set upon him and gave him a sound thrashing. She told us that till the day before she had never been on the main land, and that, on discovering us, she asked permission of the Blacks to visit us, saying she had some female friends whom she wished to see, and that she would return after having visited them, and after having procured biscuit and knives for themselves. They had often told her, she said, of the men-of-war, and other vessels that had anchored there, but not till after they had sailed, when they brought her biscuit, and other things that had been given them. She said that they had always been friendly with the Whites, and expressed the deepest gratitude for their uniform kindness to her; they were evidently much disappointed at her discovery, and expressed considerable reluctance at parting with her; however, Captain Stanley, at her request, allowed three or four, whom she selected, to accompany her on board the Rattlesnake, and, having spent the night there, they departed, well satisfied with the blankets, knives, and tomahawks that Captain Stanley had ordered to be distributed amongst them.

"The sailors on shore vied with each other in paying her every attention, and Scott, Captain Stanley's coxswain, having provided her with water for washing, and combed her hair, and arrayed her in two skirts, for an upper and inner garment, saluted her with a hearty kiss, saying, 'There, old gal, that's what you've not had this four years.'

"She appeared glad at the prospect of seeing her friends again, but did not show that excessive joy which it is but natural to imagine she would have experienced under the circumstances. Her life has certainly somewhat altered her nature, for, being asked the next morning whether she had cried over the events of the past day, she said that her feelings were completely hardened and deadened now, and that she could not cry. It seems strange how a girl of eighteen years of age, and to appearance by no means strong, could have become accustomed to living in a state of nudity, and with her head uncovered, in such a burning climate. It shows how even woman's delicate nature will adapt itself to circumstances for which its organization seems totally unfitted. Captain Stanley has provided a cabin for her, and this morning, December 17, she was seated in a corner of his cabin making herself a gown out of a piece of print with which she had been furnished. So strong was the force of habit acquired by her residence amongst the Blacks that when at breakfast with Captain Stanley she used her fingers in preference to a knife and fork. She will, no doubt, be able to afford Captain Stanley much useful information as to the language, manners, and customs, &c., of the natives of the islands in Torres Straits and its neighbourhood."

The same paper from which this narrative is taken contains an account of the wreck of an English vessel on the African coast, and of the very different manner in which the savages there behaved on the occasion. This vessel, the *Concordia*, in its voyage from Plymouth to Sierra Leone, was cast ashore "in the bay of Youf, seven miles from Cape de Verd. On touching the shore, which was occasioned by thick weather and the drift of the bay, the vessel was surrounded by many hundreds

of the natives, who, in two hours, literally stripped the ship, including deckhouse, bulwarks, stanchions, planks, masts, spars, &c., and it was only by the interference of one of the chiefs that the lives of the master and crew were saved. They at last found their way after much difficulty to Gambia, whence they were shipped in the *Alert* for England, and arrived here last week.

DISASTERS AT SEA.

The *Phoenix* pilot-boat brought into Cowes on Friday the crew and passengers of the brig *Lincoln*, bound from Boston, U.S., to California, which had been destroyed by lightning. "In lat. 4 N. and lon. 25 W., at 10.30 p.m. of March 2, during a heavy shower of rain, and without any menacing appearance of lightning, the vessel was struck with the electric fluid, which shivered the mainmast, and found its way into the hold. On opening the scuttle volumes of smoke were emitted, and finding it impossible to extinguish the fire they endeavoured to stifle it by closing every aperture. In this state they remained for nearly four days, with the fire burning in the hold, when they were relieved from their perilous situation by the appearance of the *Maria Christina*, of Altona, and taken on board. Previously to leaving the brig the hatches were opened, when the flames burst forth, and in thirty minutes afterwards the mainmast fell over the side."

The barque *Emma*, of Dundee, on her passage from Newcastle to Montreal, struck on some of the Orkney rocks, on the 1st of April. The vessel had been driven from her anchorage off St. Margaret's, in a heavy gale. Those on board managed to make sail on her, and she stood to the Eastward, and then tacked and stood to the North, when she drove and struck on the point of the rocks with terrible force. Her fearful position was observed from the shore, but it was utterly impossible to render any assistance. The crew took to the rigging, and their cries and gestures for help were truly heartrending. Within half an hour the masts were carried away, and the whole of the unhappy creatures met with a watery grave.

Several bodies have been floated on shore on the Essex coast, supposed to be the bodies of persons lost in the *Royal Adelaide*.

DOMESTIC MURDERS.

A case of murder, in a sudden fit of jealousy, took place in Suffolk the other day. A number of young men and women who had been drinking together at the White Horse Inn, Balling, were walking home at midnight on Saturday week, when one of them, Charles Piper, put his arm round the waist of one of the girls. Another of the party, one Agar, told him he must go no further with the girl. Piper said he would, upon which Agar stabbed him with a knife several times; and the wounds proved to be of so serious a nature that the man died on the following Wednesday.

Elizabeth Hellier, who is described as "a pretty, interesting girl, twenty years of age," was tried at Taunton assizes, last week, for the murder of an illegitimate infant child. The story of the case was very melancholy, though not uncommon. She had lost her situation as a servant, on her pregnancy being discovered, and had in vain tried to get a living by needlework. Having no friends who could assist her, she applied to the Poor Law guardians; but they refused to give her anything. As there was no evidence to show that she had been guilty of the capital crime, the jury merely found her guilty of the misdemeanour—concealment of the birth. Her sentence was twelve months of hard labour.

John Humblethorpe, a carpenter, aged twenty-one, was indicted at the Norfolk Circuit on April 9, for having, on the 26th of July last, shot at Susan Lingwood, aged twenty-four, with intent to murder her. The two young people had become acquainted in the harvest time of 1848; an attachment ensued, but the lady was fickle. John Humblethorpe found himself superseded, and, after various threats by letter and word of mouth, he one night fired a bullet through her bed-room window. The bullet passed through her dress, which was lying on her bed, and lodged in a chest of drawers. The prisoner's counsel pleaded that the young man had no intent to injure his mistress, but as he knew she had often changed her mind, he adopted that method of frightening her into a renewal of attachment. The jury acquitted him.

Bird and his wife, who were recently tried for the murder of Mary Parsons and acquitted, were again apprehended yesterday (Friday) week at Coleridge, near Bideford, on a charge of having assaulted and otherwise maltreated the unfortunate girl. The prisoners were panic-struck when told the charge on which they were apprehended. They were both crying bitterly on the way to the magistrate's office, and the female prisoner became so ill during the examination that the proceedings were adjourned till Monday. After her removal she became delirious, and continued in that state, according to the latest accounts from Bideford.

The final examination of Emma Sanderson, wife of a bookseller's shopman in the New North-road, who is charged with the wilful murder of her male infant, six weeks old, took place on Thursday. From the additional evidence given it seemed clear that the woman was completely insane when she committed the crime; however, she was committed to Newgate on the charge of "wilful murder."

Emanuel Barnett, described as "a rather well-looking man," was tried at Gloucester assizes last week for the murder of Elizabeth and Samuel Gregory, by administering arsenic in an apple dumpling. The prisoner had lodged in the house where the poisoning took place, and it appeared that he had provided the flour of which the dumplings were made; but, as there was no evidence to show any motive for his committing such a crime, the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty."

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the junior members of the Royal Family, left Windsor Castle for Buckingham Palace on Saturday afternoon. They were conveyed in a special train to Paddington, and thence went in several of the royal carriages to the palace, where they arrived at twenty minutes to six o'clock. On Thursday the Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by the royal suite, visited the Italian Opera.

According to the *Court Circular* of Monday, her Majesty's accouchement is expected to take place in about a fortnight; and as soon after as her state will permit, the Court will return to Windsor, and remain there until after Ascot races.

The Queen and Prince, with Prince Alfred and the Princess Helena, visited the Zoological Gardens in the Regent's-park on Monday afternoon. In the evening the Queen and Prince Albert visited her Majesty's Theatre.

The second line of tube for the double roadway at the Britannia Bridge, says the *Chester Courier*, is to be floated in May. The request to permit the attendance of the Prince of Wales, with his father, at a festival to celebrate the progress of this great work in engineering science, has been declined—for the Prince Albert, on account of the Queen's "interesting situation;" for the Prince of Wales, on account of his youth.

Nine horses, of the pure Arabian breed, presented to the Queen by the Emperor of Morocco, arrived by the South-Western Railway, on Tuesday, and were immediately conveyed to Buckingham Palace; where they were inspected by Prince Albert and the Duke of Norfolk, as Master of the Horse. The singular appearance of the mares, being all rung and their tails of enormous size, and their hair being cut close, with the uncouth look of their attendants, attracted much attention.

Prince Albert presided on Thursday afternoon at a meeting of the Royal Commission for the promotion of the Exhibition of 1861.

The Duchess of Kent visited the Queen on Thursday at Buckingham Palace.

The ex-King and Queen of the French, accompanied by the Duke and Duchess of Nemours, with their two sons and a daughter, went by special train from Reigate to Brighton on Saturday.

A report is current that the great seal is to be put into commission; Lord Langdale, who is destined for the Chancellorship, being reluctant to assume a political position. Bentham used to point to Bickersteth as the right man to be Chancellor.

The Bishop of Winchester has presented the Reverend A. S. Canney, B.A., to the incumbency of the district of St. Andrew, Lambeth, in which a church is to be erected as soon as circumstances will admit.

The Reverend Mr. Ward, who recently seceded from the Church of England to the Church of Rome, has just come into an entailed estate of £12,000 a year.

We are sorry to hear that the health of the poet Wordsworth, who, we believe, is now verging on his eightieth year, is not so good as his friends and admirers could wish.—*Westmoreland Gazette*.

M. Gustave de Rothschild, second son of the banker, has recently been naturalized [in France]. He presented himself before the mayor of the twelfth arrondissement, where he made the required declaration, his witnesses and godfather being General Changarnier and M. Poinsant, an old member of the Chamber of Deputies.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

Letters from Sloperton, give a most painful account of the decaying health of the poet Moore, whose death was daily apprehended. For three months past Mr. Moore had not left his room, and altogether his condition was considered hopeless.

About £2000 has been contributed for the proposed monument to Lord Jeffrey. Edinburgh, as we are informed, has contributed about £1300; London about £400; and Glasgow about £100.

The Marquis of Ormonde has made over to the National Board of Education in Ireland the spacious school-house on his estate in the parish of Killeash, and diocese of Cashel. The building was erected at a cost of nearly £600.

A Donaghadee paper says that, on the abolition of the Lord-Lieutenancy, Sir William Somerville is to be raised to the peerage as Baron Somerville, and that, consequently, there will be a vacancy for that borough.

La Patrie of Bruges says it is probable that Louis Philippe and his family will visit Bruges in the month of May next.

The Queen of the Belgians entered on her thirty-ninth year on Wednesday last; she was born at Palermo on the 3rd of April, 1812.

Letters from Dresden state that a congress of Sovereigns is likely to be held there after the coronation of the Emperor of Austria, and that the crowned heads will there and then publish a proclamation for a general amnesty for all political offences committed during the last two years.

It is reported that the Austrian Government has relinquished in favour of the Pope, the *placetum regium*: that is to say, the Emperor's right of proposing and confirming the appointment of the bishops, and of permitting the publication of Papal ordinances in spiritual matters, &c., in Austria.

The German journals almost every day contain letters from Poland, announcing the concentration of large masses of Russian troops in different provinces, especially in those nearest the frontier, and stating that recruiting and military preparations are being carried on with great activity.

The Vienna papers publish the memorial of the Minister of Trade, which has received the sanction of the Emperor, for the establishment of Chambers of Commerce throughout the empire. They are to be

sixty in number, but will be completely under the controul of the Ministry.

The Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin has just received the resignation of his ministry ("the only remaining Radical Ministry in Germany") in consequence of his determination to modify the democratic portion of the constitution. On the 5th of April the avenues of the Chamber were lined with gendarmes, to prevent the assembling of the members.

The *German Reform* reports that there is an interchange of notes, of a very unpleasant nature, between the cabinet of Vienna and St. James's. Lord Palmerston is said to have announced the most decided measures against Austria's relations with Tuscany, and even to have expressed the suspicion, that Austria is fomenting the insurrection in Bosnia.

The *Preussische Staatsanzeiger* of the 3rd contains a summons to all German and foreign engineers to send in plans and sketches for a bridge which is to be built over the Rhine at Cologne. A prize of 250 frederics d'or will be given for the best plan, and a prize of 125 frederics d'or for the second best.

The committee of the "Union Electorale" (the party of order) has resolved that their candidate for the election of the 28th of April shall be M. Ferdinand Foy. The democratic party have not yet named their candidate.

Nearly nine hundred persons have been tried by the Saxon courts-martial as implicated in the disturbances of last May. Nearly one hundred sentences have already been pronounced. Among these, 8 have been sentenced to death, 7 to imprisonment, 2 for life, 5 for 18, 15, 10, 4, and 3 years, 1 to the treadmill for 8 years.

A telegraphic despatch from Berlin, dated April 6, says that an imposing force is concentrated on the frontiers of Silesia, and that 46,000 cavalry are also *échelonnés* at small distances from the frontier.

The *Statuto* of Florence quotes a letter from Bologna of March 28, stating that the celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Novara by the Austrians having met with great coldness from the population of Bologna, the Austrian general in command there has notified by letter to the Casino and other societies of a similar nature existing in that city, an order to close their rooms; adding that such measure was sufficiently warranted by the attitude which the whole country maintains towards the Austrians, and by the supposition that the Casino had given no balls during the carnival, to avoid inviting the Austrian officers.

The annual produce of wine in New South Wales exceeds 100,000 gallons. Wine of good quality sells at 10s. a dozen, and will be much cheaper as the cultivation of the vine is rapidly extending.

From Returns ordered by the Emperor of Russia it appears that there are in Russia and Poland 1,188,111 Jews, who have 2900 places of worship and 5305 schools.

Fifty-two persons more have received their sentence by the court-martial of Arad; of these thirty-five are sentenced to death. The sentences have been commuted by Haynau to from ten to sixteen years' imprisonment in iron.

A serious engagement has taken place between the inhabitants of Rio Grande (Brazil) and some of General Oribe's Argentine bands, in which the former have been beaten, with the loss of nearly 500 men.

The state of siege has been prolonged throughout the Grand Duchy of Baden for another month.

It is proposed by Dr. Gesner to light the city of New York with gas made of asphaltum from Trinidad, at a cost of 50 cents. per 1000 feet.

By a recent royal decree linen thread of every size is freely admitted into Belgium, on condition of its being reexported when made up into cloth.

The return of births during the past year in Vienna shows a total of 19,241, of which 10,360 were illegitimate, and only 8881 legitimate.

A new postal convention has been concluded between France and Switzerland.

The *Panamá Echo*, a new weekly paper, states that wines and spirits will shortly be drunk as cheaply at Panamá as in France, and that clothing will be as cheap as in England.

The Archbishop of Turin, who opposes the abolition of ecclesiastical privileges, was vehemently hissed while leaving the Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

The St. Petersburg journals of the 23rd of March give news of victories gained over the Circassians. These accounts are, however, very little to be relied on.

The insurrection, spoken of by the journals some weeks since, among the peasantry of Zagorya, a Slavonic province bordering on Styria, is said to be put down.

The van of the *Messageries Nationales*, containing 100,000 francs, was attacked by a band of robbers, on the 3d instant, on its way from Lyons to Avignon; the men succeeded in carrying off several parcels containing 34,000 francs. Six of the robbers have been apprehended and 23,000 francs of the money had been recovered.

The *Wiener Zeitung* publishes a long list of officers in the Imperial Russian service to whom various orders are given, duty free, by the Emperor of Austria, in acknowledgment of their services during last year's campaign in Hungary and Transylvania.

Among the prisoners recently released from the fortress of Spielberg, the Austrian state prison, was one who, according to the *Gazette des Tribunaux*, had been thirty-seven years continually confined in a subterranean cell. He was taken ill on being removed to the open air, and had to be sent to the hospital. His age is seventy-two.

Many arrests of Russian officers have lately taken place at Warsaw and throughout the army in Poland. It is said that some of them, under the influence of torture, have revealed the existence of secret societies.

At Jever, in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, 4000 pieces of silver money of the period of the different emperors down to Antoninus Pius, were lately dis-

covered. It is supposed that a Roman merchant vessel was wrecked on a sandbank in that neighbourhood some seventeen hundred years ago.

In order to encourage a trial of the English systems of drainage, the French minister of agriculture and commerce has granted 5000*fr.* (£200) to the model farm at Camp department of the Mayerne towards the expense of conveyance, purchase, and setting up the machine for manufacturing the pipes.

Twenty-one Polish exiles have just been expelled from Switzerland. Many more have been dismissed from Government situations in France, on account of their democratic sentiments. The grant of twelve shillings a month has also been reduced one third for all of the proscribed opinion.

Mrs. Forrest, the wife of the American tragedian, in reply to her husband's petition for divorce, has addressed a communication to the Legislature of Pennsylvania, setting forth that she is parted from Mr. Forrest at his wish, upon some ground of temper, and that Mr. Forrest had proposed to her to allow her character to be impeached, in order the more easily to compass a divorce. To that end proposals for preserving secrecy had been made to her, which, though accompanied by offers of provision for life, she felt bound in honour unqualifiedly to refuse. Without pecuniary means for her own defence, she had no resource but in making a solemn declaration protesting against the course pursued by her husband.

The reconstruction of the fort at Ofen has at last been commenced. The fortifications are to be rebuilt sufficiently strong to guard against a sudden surprise, but not against a regular siege. Temeswar and Arad are to be reconstructed with all the science and art which modern engineering skill can compass. The Government is said to intend to make Arad a second Comorn.

The leaders of the Hungarian revolution were three months ago summoned to surrender; as the period of ninety days had elapsed without bringing with it such an act of folly on the part of the simple Hungarians, they have all been sentenced to death in *contumaciam*. Among them are Kossuth, Perczel, Batthyani, Madaras, Teleki, and others.

The German language has been substituted for the Magyar in the University of Presburg. Many students ignorant of German, and even some of the professors have been compelled to leave the university.

The Swiss Federal Council was opened on April 5, at Berne. The President, M. Escher, in his opening speech asserted the mutual responsibilities of Nations, and that it was the duty of Switzerland to call Nations to liberty by the force of example, and to maintain the Alps as the altar of liberty in Europe. He regretted to observe the spirit of the Sonderbund still lingering in some of the Cantons.

Parish priests are getting scarce in Spain. The *Gazette* of every week contains circulars from different bishops, notifying vacancies in their dioceses. On April 3, the Bishop of Tarragona advertised for sixty-three. It would appear that the Convent is preferred to the Cure.

Major Nicholson, aide-de-camp to the Governor-General of India, had left Constantinople, with General Guyon, for Broussa. The Turkish steamer Farli-hut had left for Gallipoli, to embark 250 Italian refugees for Genoa. General Dembinski, who was among the Poles on board the ship that carried some eighty Polish refugees to Malta, would not abandon his friends in distress, but took ship for Broussa, from whence he went to join Kossuth and his friends in misfortune who have been sent into the interior. There were still 600 Polish refugees at Schumla. They had been divided into classes, comprising severally those who have consented to serve in the Christian battalions about to be formed in Turkey, those who are willing to serve in the civil administration, and those who desire to stay in Turkey and support themselves.

A letter from Leghorn of the 24th March, states that on that day a great number of persons had gone to the new cemetery to place crowns on the graves of those who had fallen for the cause of Italian independence, and that in the contiguous church of La Buona Morte, part of the congregation having called for a Pater and Ave to the memory of those who had died for the cause of Italy, a great disturbance ensued, which called the police to the spot. Fourteen persons have been arrested on account of the disturbance. The following notice has been published at Leghorn by the military authorities:—"From the Imperial and Royal Military Command of the City, all those who follow religious processions which are still tolerated shall have their faces uncovered; and the churches shall be closed at seven p.m., and not reopened till sunrise."

A banquet was given on Monday evening at the London Tavern, by the inhabitants of Lambourn Ward, to Sir John Key, on the occasion of the twenty-seventh anniversary of his election to fill the office of alderman of the ward.

The tomb and the remains of Alfred the Great are to be offered for sale by auction on Thursday next, by order of the county magistrates!! We thought that the lowest depth of degradation had been reached when the site of the splendid abbey where his remains were deposited was covered with the buildings of a bridewell; but it is enough for every Englishman to hide his face with everlasting shame to be told that the ashes of our best, our wisest, and greatest king are to be sold—are to be chaffered and cheapened—at a public auction.—*Hampshire Independent.*

The plan proposed by Mr. Bourne for improving steam navigation in India has been referred by the Court of Directors of the East India Company to the Government in Bengal, leaving it to the local authorities to decide on its merits.

It is said that the Deputy Master of the Mint has ten-

dered his resignation, and that it has been accepted by the Treasury. Captain Harness, secretary to the Railway Commission, it is added, has been appointed to succeed him.

Upwards of 140 barristers went the Munster circuit at the assizes just ended, seven-eighths of whom did not hold a brief.

The strike among the engine-drivers and firemen on the North British Railway still continues. Each party holds out with resolution, with no appearance of a compromise.

A grand scheme of emigration is on foot amongst the agriculturists in this and the adjoining counties of Worcester and Hereford. It is proposed, in the first instance, to purchase a million acres of land in one of the western states of America.—*Gloucester Chronicle.*

Ebenezer Elliott, writing to a gentleman who proposed to call and taste his home-brewed, said:—"When I married, my wife agreed that we should have two bairns, a lad and a lass, and the best home-brewed ale in England. She more than kept her promise as to the bairns, for they came so fast that they stopped the brewing."—*Gateshead Observer.*

On account of the difficulty of obtaining the large sum of £600 or £700 required to defray the annual expenses of the Royal Thames Regatta, the committee has resolved to discontinue the regatta in its former shape, and to constitute periodical races, comprising those which have hitherto formed part of the two days' sport.

An alarming emeute broke out on board the Stirling Castle convict ship, at Portsmouth, on Friday week, which lasted several days. The men who began the riot were a number of ferocious villains who had recently arrived from Woolwich, who complained of not getting a sufficient quantity of food. The mutiny spread from the Stirling Castle to the York, where the convicts refused to go to work, and began to batter the bulkheads with their stools. The officer who has charge of the ship seized two of the ringleaders and ordered one of them to be flogged. This had the effect of putting down the mutiny in that vessel; and the same steps were resorted to next day on board the Stirling Castle, with an equally wholesome effect.

A young French lady who has been converted to Protestantism through the instrumentality of the Rev. V. G. Dangars, made a public renunciation of the Catholic faith on Sunday morning in the French Protestant Church, St. Martin's-le-grand, and embraced that of the Church of England.

William Peckham, the Leadenhall "walk" letter-carrier has been robbed. At first the story was that three men had seized him, snatched away the letters, and ran off; an improbable tale which threw suspicion on the man himself. A miserable old man has since confessed that he quietly picked a bag off a window-sill on which Peckham had left it. It contained letters, and also some meat and mustard; the food was welcome, but the plunderer was alarmed at finding the Postmaster's property in his possession, and after wandering about for some time, in a state of indecision, he gave himself up to the police.

Some workmen employed in the repair of an extensive mansion in the village of Lewisham, last Monday, had occasion to take up the flooring of the dining parlour, when, within a foot of the joists, the skulls of no less than *seventeen horses* were found, and in every instance the lower jaw bone was absent.

A steam-vessel, named the Collier, from Guernsey, was caught by the tide while proceeding up the river and driven against London-bridge. All the three masts snapped, and were carried over the side, leaving the vessel a perfect hulk, everything on deck being swept overboard. The crew had a very narrow escape, but saved themselves by descending into the cabin.

Lepbridge, who threw Matthews, a stage carpenter at the Strand Theatre, from the second boxes into the orchestra, has been sentenced to a fine of £5 or two months' imprisonment.

On Sunday last the services at Ducie Chapel were conducted by Dr. Nolan, for the first time since the action for defamation of character, tried at the recent Liverpool Assizes. The chapel was crowded both morning and evening, great numbers not being able to obtain admission at the latter service. Both before and after the time of the services many persons had assembled in front of the building, and the aid of the police was required in order to keep the footpath clear. Dr. Nolan, in the course of his address, called God to witness his innocence of the charges made against him.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Two men, named Edward Craine and Thomas Gill, proceeded to a hill side on the estate of Renabb, parish of Maughold, for the purpose of procuring a bundle of heather for the making of brooms; while thus engaged the proprietor of the premises observed them, and remarked that he should quickly make them remove their quarters. In accordance with this determination he at once set fire to the dry furze and heather, directly under the place where the poor men were engaged as above stated. The fire spread with great fury, and it was only by rolling himself down the brow of the hill, and falling over the edge of the precipice into the river underneath, that Gill escaped, whilst his unfortunate companion, who was a pensioner, aged eighty-three years, and quite a cripple, was left in his helpless state a prey to the devouring element. After the flame had subsided, Gill went in search of Craine, whom he found burnt to a cinder. The proprietor of the heath has been apprehended.—*Manx Liberal.*

Edmund Woodland, son of a brewer at Twickenham, was summoned at Guildhall, on Saturday, for refusing to support his illegitimate child. The complainant was an interesting young lady, respectably connected; she said the defendant had commenced paying his addresses to her about four years, and his attentions had been so marked that all her friends considered him in the light of her future husband. Twelvemonths ago she went with him

on a pleasure trip to Richmond-park, and it was on that occasion that he succeeded in removing her scruples, by urging that it could make no difference as he would marry her in a few days. He afterwards repeatedly promised her marriage, until the birth of the child; he then discontinued his attentions altogether, and engaged himself to a young lady with money. When called upon to perform his promise, he said "he could not do so without consulting his papa on the subject." An order was made upon the defendant, who did not appear to the summons.

The Reverend Canon Bowles, whose controversy with Byron may be recollected by many, died at Salisbury on the 7th inst., at the advanced age of eighty-nine.

The Plymouth town council are about to lay down a quantity of glass pipes, jointed with gutta percha, as an experiment, for the conveyance of water.

The last experiment made by Mr. Shepherd with the message balloons which were sent up on the 3rd of March from the roof of the Admiralty buildings at Whitehall have been very successful. A letter has just been received at the Admiralty containing one of the slips picked up on the 7th of March by a commercial traveller from Birmingham, who found it, and observed several others of the same kind, at Altona, near Hamburg, a distance of about 450 miles from London. The slips must have dropped from the balloon in its flight over the north of Europe, and its ultimate fate is as yet unascertained. With the aid of similar balloons Captain Collinson and Captain Austin may be able to make known their positions to each other by despatching them with slips in the Arctic regions, and they may also be able to convey intelligence to Sir John Franklin and his gallant companions, informing them where provisions and friends are waiting or searching for them.

The *Clare Journal* mentions in its last number no fewer than four cases of death from destitution.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Manchester Mechanics' Institute was celebrated on Wednesday evening by a social party in the Assembly-room of the Town-hall.

The number of visitors to the British Museum during 1849 has been 979,073, an increase of 80,000 over the preceding year.

The superintendent of the trucks on the Edinburgh and Glasgow railway, and one of his subordinates, have just been arrested for extensive depredations on that line.

An educational meeting was held on Tuesday night in the Music Hall, Edinburgh, Mr. A. Black in the chair. On the motion of Mr. Cowan, an association was formed, to be called the National Education Association of Scotland.

The Epsom Spring meeting commenced on Thursday, the weather showery, and the attendance not so numerous as usual. One of the temporary platforms fell in during the principal running, and four or five persons had their limbs fractured.

The Anti-State Church Association held a meeting on Thursday evening at the Free Trade-hall, Manchester. From 5000 to 6000 persons were present. The principal speakers were Mr. G. Thompson, M.P., Mr. Miall, and the Reverend J. Burnett. To the first resolution, condemnatory of "the establishment of any kind of religion by the Government," an amendment in favour of a Church establishment was moved by "an operative" amid groans and hisses. No seconder, however, could be found. A petition for the separation of Church and State was afterwards adopted.

The trades' unionists charged with attempting to assassinate Mr. W. Butcher, at Sheffield, have been examined before the magistrates, and the inquiry has terminated in the discharge of Daniel Hodkins, one of the accused, and the committal for trial of W. Bailey and Daniel Ensor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS AND READERS.

The immense mass of letters which we receive on diverse subjects precludes our acknowledging many communications individually; but we cannot refrain from saying to a large number that their encouragement and approbation is most welcome in our arduous enterprise. Each one man who has written to us in that sense may rest assured that every word has been received at its full value, and that he is amply thanked.

Several suggestions, especially in regard to the distant circulation of our paper, are thankfully accepted, and shall be attended to. We find it impossible to make any satisfactory reply to strangers who offer their services in the regular employment of the paper. We cannot but feel obliged by the disposition to share in our labours; but for many communications we can give no answer more specific than to say that we have no vacant employment which we can place at the disposal of the writers, and that it is extremely difficult to negotiate on any subjects of the kind without some sort of personal introduction.

John Walker objects to our use of Latin quotations, and says that, being a working man, he cannot understand them. It would not only deprive literary writing in particular of many happy illustrations if the use of foreign languages were precluded, but would cramp the writer. It will, however, be our endeavour, generally speaking, to take care that no essential part of the text is couched in an alien tongue; so that the reader may treat it as surplusage. On the other hand, the casual encounter with foreign languages will often stimulate the thoughtful man to some effort at escaping from the exclusiveness of his mother tongue.

POSTSCRIPT.

SATURDAY.

In the House of Lords, last night, Earl GREY moved the third reading of the Convict Prisons Bill. In the debate that ensued Lords LYTLETON, WODEHOUSE, LICHETER, and STANLEY, expressed their convictions of the necessity of altering our

present penal system, but seemed to agree in considering the Government scheme as only a temporary staving off of the real difficulties of the question. Earl Gansy in reply combated the objections which had been taken to the system of transportation. He referred to the growth of our Australian colonies as evidence of the advantages to be derived from such a system; but while he thought that transportation should not be abandoned, "he was more and more impressed with the conviction that the penal part of the sentence ought to be inflicted at home." He believed the difficulties in the way of disposing of convicts would be lessened; that convicts might be still sent advantageously to New South Wales and Western Australia, sending, however, only such as had obtained conditional pardons, and keeping the remainder at Van Diemen's Land. He did not anticipate any opposition from Van Diemen's Land, for he already saw that the colony was less averse than in 1846. The opposition at the Cape arose from that being a free colony.

In the early part of the evening Lord CAMPBELL introduced his bill for the regulation of special pleading.

In the House of Commons, last night, Lord JOHN RUSSELL brought forward his motion on public salaries: it ran thus:—

"That a select committee be appointed to inquire into the salaries and emoluments of offices held during the Pleasure of the Crown by members of either House of Parliament voted in the annual estimates; into the salaries and emoluments of judicial officers in the superior courts of law and equity in the United Kingdom; into the retiring pensions allotted to the judges; and also into the expense of diplomatic establishments charged on the Consolidated Fund."

In 1848, he said, a committee was appointed to inquire into our military establishments, and, that committee having now nearly completed its labours, he proposed that another should be appointed. The first branch of inquiry would be the salaries of persons holding office at the pleasure of the Crown, and any proposal for the reduction of these could be best considered by a committee composed of independent Members of the House. The second branch "was the salaries of the Judges; these had not undergone any investigation for a long time. The last branch of the inquiry related to our diplomatic establishment, and as nineteen years had elapsed since they were put on their present footing, he thought the time had come when they ought to be submitted to revision. One member of the Government, at least, should be placed on the committee, to give any explanations, if necessary. He referred to Mr. Henley's notice of motion for a general revision of salaries, with a view to their reduction, and Mr. Disraeli's amendment on the present motion, as implying that Government were not in earnest in their professions of economy. The best answer to this was to show what reductions they had made in the national expenditure during the last two years. Within that period a reduction of £3,284,658 had been made in the Army, Navy, and Ordnance Estimates. In the Treasury, one junior Lord, two chief clerkships, one senior clerkship, and four junior clerkships had been abolished, making a saving of £5,345 a-year. In 1849, a saving of £23,000 was made in the Paymaster-General's office; in the Customs, by the abolition of offices and reduction of salaries, a saving of £64,711 had been effected. Lord John justified the salaries of the Treasury:—

"Considering the multifarious duties which are performed by the Treasury Department, as well as the extreme importance of its decisions to the public, and that those duties are discharged by twenty-nine persons at a cost of less than £25,000, I cannot believe that a similar instance of efficiency combined with economy can be found in any other country of Europe or America. Seeing these things, I cannot concur in the comments which are made from time to time on the manner in which duties are performed in the public offices of this country by persons holding permanent situations. It was lately asserted by a very clever but whimsical writer that our public offices are an Augean-stable which require an Hercules to cleanse it. My opinion is, that public duties for the discharge of which great intelligence and incessant labour are necessary, were never performed more zealously and efficiently than they are performed by the persons holding permanent offices in the public departments of this country. Those whose duty it is to consider these questions, and to carry reductions into effect, naturally compare the emoluments of persons employed in the public offices with those of persons having similar duties to perform in the Bank of England, the East India-house, and private mercantile establishments. Having made that comparison, I must say it appears to me that in point of salary, and in other respects, the advantage is in favour of the latter."

He went on to mention other reductions which had been lately made. By the consolidation of the Board of Excise with the Stamps and Taxes, a saving of £37,000 had already been effected, and when all the measures now in progress were fully carried out the total saving would not be less than £100,000. Since 1833, 2170 persons employed in the Stamps and Excise had been reduced; making a saving of £259,650 a-year. These facts prove that Government is earnestly desirous to enforce economy in all the departments under its control. The present committee was pro-

posed with the view of ascertaining what reductions can be effected consistently with the efficiency of the public service, but certainly not in accordance with the notions so warmly taken up by some, that a sudden and general reduction of salaries should be made according to some scale which they have formed in their own heads:—

"It is absurd to found such a proposition on the present price of corn and bread in the market. If we were to adopt such a principle it would be necessary to have a tariff of salaries varying with seasons of plenty and scarcity. Next, if the committee went into this question, they would have to consider what reductions there had been in all the expenses persons in public office had to defray. I have an account in detail of what are believed to be the expenses of a clerk receiving £150 a-year salary, and there are not above one or two items at all considerable in which a reduction had been made. I am speaking of those who are in the permanent service of the Crown. There are various other objections that must be made if it is proposed really and gravely to make reductions on the principle of what is the price of provisions now as compared with another time. Considering the case of a person who had to live in London, paying rent for a house or lodging, and the expenses necessarily attending upon a residence in this metropolis, I think we should find it impracticable to carry out reduction on that principle."

Another point, which he need hardly notice, was the notion, lately started, that the public service would be better carried on if the persons who were to carry it on were altogether removed from the Legislature, and held no seats in either House of Parliament. Such a proposal was quite inconsistent with the machinery of our mode of government. Unless there were persons in both Houses to propose and defend legislative measures, no proper understanding could be kept up between the majority of Members in Parliament and the Executive Government. The value of the present system was demonstrated by the harmonious way in which the Poor Law Board had worked. But he could never believe that a committee of that House, composed of persons of experience, would think of adopting such a chimerical experiment as the one he had mentioned. He now left the question in their hands, feeling confident that an independent committee would deal with it as they ought to do.

Mr. DISRAELI moved his amendment, which will be found in our parliamentary history of the week. He contended that they already possessed sufficient information for the revision and regulation of salaries. If they appointed a committee, how were they to obtain more information? Would they summon the judges, examine them as to the expense of their circuits and make them produce their tavern bills and vouchers? The Government had access to the very best sources of information, and, therefore, it did not need to ask for a committee. If reductions could be accomplished, it was the duty of Ministers to propose them at once. Nothing could be more unconstitutional than this insidious attempt to shift the responsibility of revising official salaries from Ministers to Parliament. The House of Commons was the guardian of the public purse; but by this proposal Lord John would cause it to incur the odium which would be attached to extravagant expenditure. To appoint a committee was only to cause unnecessary delay. Lord John himself could settle the whole of the salaries in question in a single day; whereas the committee would be employed for months without making any actual progress. If this motion were carried, it would be a complete delusion to look for any important reduction of expenditure.

Sir B. HALL supported the motion, but should have supported Mr. Henley's motion, had it been brought forward as an amendment.

Mr. HUME inferred, from Lord John's speech, that no further reductions were intended. He predicted that Ministers would pay no attention to the report of the committee, unless it met their own views. He had been on many committees of this kind, but never found that Government paid much attention to any recommendation in favour of economy. Lord John had told them of £2,500,000 which had been reduced, but he had said nothing of £8,000,000 a-year which had been added to our expenditure. He was glad to see the spirit of economy in Parliament. There would be more country gentlemen voting with him in favour of economy and retrenchment than at any time since 1822.

Mr. HENLEY complained that Lord John had not given the slightest indication of what reductions Government intended to make. No question of this kind could be dealt with properly by anybody but Ministers, who alone possessed the necessary information, or could procure it. He would explain his own views at large when the time came, and meantime supported the amendment.

Lord HARRY VANE, Mr. GRANTLEY BERKELEY, Mr. HERRIES, Mr. H. DRUMMOND, and Lord JOHN MANNERS supported the amendment: Mr. COCKBURN, Mr. BRIGHT, and the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER opposed it.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL, in reply to the complaint that nothing had been mentioned about reduction by Government, said he certainly thought it would be useless to appoint a committee unless he believed

that reduction and economy would be the consequence.

The House having divided, the numbers were:—
For Mr. Disraeli's amendment.... 169
Against it..... 250

Majority against it 91

Mr. HORSMAN moved that the inquiry be extended to the incomes of ecclesiastical dignitaries. After a short discussion, the amendment was negatived by 208 to 95.

Some other business of little importance having been transacted, the House adjourned at a quarter past twelve o'clock.

An important and influential meeting to petition Parliament for a national system of education, was held at Leeds on Thursday. On the proposition of the Mayor, Mr. Hamer Stansfeld was placed in the chair. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Smiles, Mr. Harris, Mr. W. Brook, and others, and resolutions carried, affirming the inadequacy both of the present Government plan of education and of the "voluntary activities;" and advocating a system of public schools, locally supported and managed, having for their object "the secular instruction of the children, but leaving sufficient time for their religious instruction by parents and religious teachers." Open-air meetings, for the same object, are announced to take place at Leeds on Monday and Tuesday. We hail these vigorous accessions to the movement, and shall not fail to "improve the occasion" next week.

The ministers of the Congregational Disenters Union have disavowed "all connection or future communion" with Dr. Nolan.

Mr. John O'Connell has issued an address "to the Repealers of Ireland," declaring that if he do not receive decided encouragement within a fortnight, he will abandon the agitation. He says—"I have struggled to the last moment that I could do so, and struggled all but single-handed. I have gone on to the last, and it is only now, when the last appears to be come, that I declare I can do no more."

Mr. Thackeray has been furnishing the excitable Irish with a new "English insult." In a recent number of his "Pendennis," appeared the following sentence:—

"The greatest criminal, tyrant, booby, Bluebeard, Catherine Hayes, George Barnwell, among us need never despair."

All Ireland was in a blaze immediately, outraged at this "unmanly, gross, and cowardly" assault upon the fair Irishwoman, Miss Hayes, the opera-singer. Three Irish newspapers and a member of Parliament opened fire upon the culprit, denouncing "his intention to insult the Irish nation," assailing him with epithets damning him to everlasting infamy, and hoping that if he had any defence to offer that he would hasten to make it. A letter from the criminal sent to the *Morning Chronicle*, shows the whole matter to have been like the old story of the Irish officer, who fought a duel with a man who doubted his assertion that anchovies grew on the rocks of Malta, and who, after shooting his opponent, discovered that he meant not anchovies but capers. The Catherine Hayes referred to in "Pendennis," was a murderess who was executed at Tyburn, and who subsequently perished in a novel written some ten years back by Mr. Thackeray for "Fraser's Magazine." The "prompt and chivalrous espousal" of an injured cause "is the anchovy-caper question over again."

A project of law, says the *Paris National*, is about to be considered in the French Assembly on the motion of M. Espinasse (a Legitimist), which, if carried, would effectually prevent any untoward results from universal suffrage. It would still, however, remain to be seen whether the people could be induced to submit to it. M. Espinasse proposes that none shall vote who do not take part in some commercial, industrial, or agricultural enterprise; nor then, unless established for two years in the commune whence the vote is to be taken; that no workman shall vote without a twelve-month's certificate from his master; that military votes shall be sent to the respective communes, sealed up by the military authorities, so that none may know in what manner the soldiers vote; that no soldier who has been punished shall vote; that no election shall be good unless the candidate obtain an absolute majority of all votes given; and that those electors who, without legitimate cause, do not vote shall be subject to fine. A second proposition would provide that vacant places in the Assembly shall not be filled up till the number of representatives be reduced to 700.

An "important" meeting of the party of order was held on Wednesday at the Palace of the Council of State, at which, it is said, M. Thiers asked for pledges of support from the legitimists. Mr. Berryer declined, however, to tie up the hands of his party.

The Government of Hanover refuses to recognize the authority of the tribunal to which it has been summoned by the Erfurt constitutionalists.

The Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen abdicated on the 6th of April in favour of the King of Prussia.

At Munster, in Hanover, M. Temme, who has been for ten months in close imprisonment on a charge of high treason, has been acquitted by the jury.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—Dr. ARNOLD.

THE WANT OF THE DAY.

MUCH Church and no Religion—that, in its public aspect, is the sight that England presents at this day. Immense clergy bustle, but no religious influence. Religion there may be at heart—we are so assured. Religion there may be among sects and cliques—we believe it. Religion there may be in the earnestness with which men contend about doctrinal differences—we do not libel human nature so much as to imagine that all the zeal is false or worthless. Religion may actuate home missions and foreign missions—missions to convert aborigines alien to our land—missions to redeem the victims to our social inequalities: but they are little else than private efforts, and are wholly unable to cope with the evils that they profess to encounter. Home missions may nuzzle at the masses of crime and vice which are overwhelming our large towns, but they are unable to make any manifest impression or to check the yearly growth of the gigantic monsters.

But in its public action, in its State departments, where is the Religion of England? For any effective broad control over the social conduct of life, where is the sacred influence? Truly it is represented more obviously in the zeal of sectarian contest than in any other shape. In that barren enterprise the several forms of the Church militant amongst us are contending with each other in a ceaseless battle, which has no result but ceaseless bitterness.

It is a strange forgetfulness of the immortal end in the human means. Every sect will tell you that Religion is the sole sufficient motive to every great action for good; and yet, without exception, the sects appear to be forgetting the practical influence while they are quarrelling about the specific methods in which it may be applied. Survey the whole round of daily life, and ask if you can deny the assertion.

Parliament meets again this week. Its first act on reassembling was to join in prayer. It has in the session more than once discussed religious subjects; and will again. There are in Parliament zealots, and also men stirred by a genuine zeal. But what is it that we expect from the session; how much work; how much resolution to grapple with substantial things? Is there a man amongst us that anticipates any great result, although the powerful Parliament of this powerful country shall sit for more than six months in the year? The most important questions of public policy and public necessity press upon the consideration of Parliament,—the rights of the people, the administration and very integrity of the colonial empire, the morals and improvement of the people in sanitary matters, much elucidated of late by Science under the impulse of calamity. Parliament itself has confessed the necessity through its leading men, and has set down, not indeed all that needs to be done, but still a large batch of work. How much of that will be performed? Very little, we know. And why? Because there is no motive. "Parties are broken up," and there is no party motive,—no competition for public favour in that line. In the absence of party there is no other—no aggregate motive that overrules all men, makes them active and devoted to their duty. Parliament does not act under a sense that man is bound to obey and carry forth the law proclaimed in the conduct of the universe.

Even in the most distinct and urgent enterprise that invites public action there is supineness. Under the terror of pestilence some sort of formal recognition has been made of the necessity for sanitary improvements; a strong but transitory burst of the right spirit was heard in the sermons that were uttered from so many pulpits on the Fast-day, animated as those sermons were by a new doctrine which admitted of the reconciliation of Religion to the laws of nature. But the manifestation of the spirit was transitory. Official departments have taken unto themselves men stirred by the love of sanitary improvement, and strong to work therein; but, alas! who supposes that those earnest men really possess a hold of power, or are to substantiate their doctrines in thoroughly effective measures? The Metropolitan Commission debates, the Board of Public Health issues blue

books, but unless more is to be done, and speedily, in sooth it may be said that the imperial Government is trying to cheat Providence by feigning to obey its dictates, while it is evading the execution of its duty by a few formal appointments of men reputed to be the best for the work. There is no immortal motive here!

Are we to look into the state of society for the influence of Religion? Are we to find that safeguard shielding the wife against the fatal violence of the husband; the husband against the insidious poison of the wife; the child against the parent?

Nay, look into the Church itself, and see what is going forward now—Gorham braving Exeter, Exeter pamphleteering Canterbury; parish memorializing against parish, Dissenters exulting over dissension in the Church; holy men quarrelling over the shapes of churches and chapels, and the meaning of words, the rights of "persons of the Church" to property, the sacred right to that "religious freedom" which consists in exemption from certain taxes called religious. But we do not see the clergy or ministers of any sect walking forth among the people to recal them from error and crime in the name of the God that all sects acknowledge. We do not see them appealing from human dissensions to the instincts and affections common to all mankind,—we do not see the clergy advancing in the National Council, and effectively stirring Parliament to its duty of working for the welfare of the people.

Sect and sectarian dogma are made the subjects of public strife in abundance; but if we look for Religion as a motive for public action, we must confess that churches have forgotten their greatest office in thinking more of their own differences and the small contrivances of human subtlety. The nation might be Atheist for any fruits that we see in its public action. Is it possible that Sect, with its rancorous and proverbial hatred, can so set man against man as to neutralize the universal spirit, and incapacitate men for ministering to the will of Providence in the service of his kind?

AN EXAMPLE FOR ENGLAND.

ENGLAND'S Colonies are furnishing examples to the parent country, not as to the profit derivable from rebellion,—although Ministers have thrown out the practical hint that rebellion is the most effective form of the "pressure from without,"—but, in the tangible advantage of a distinct moral purpose, the imperial Government has just been beaten by the force of moral purpose and of concentrated purpose in the Cape of Good Hope. The pith of the story may be soon told, and it is one that ought to serve as a practical lesson to the English People.

Without going too far back into the history of the Cape,—its compulsory surrender of certain kinds of slavery, its grievances under the sport of blundering philanthropy which virtually disarmed the European colonists on the border in the face of the marauding tribes,—it is enough to remember that the colonists of the Cape, both the descendants of the Dutch and the English settlers, have aspired to a decided character for integrity and general morality, and have made it a point of honour that their community should not be disgraced by the introduction of a convict population. More than one contest on that point has been urged with the Administration at home; but the determined temper of the colonists has extorted the respectful deference of the officials. It is in the teeth of that past experience that Lord Grey made the recent attempt to introduce convicts into the Cape.

But the manner in which he did it seriously aggravated the injury. On the plea that England did not know what to do with her convicted felons since the abolition of convictism in New South Wales, he proposed to distribute a part of the number yearly accruing among a variety of colonies, omitting, however, the West India Colonies, proper, perhaps, on account of their climate, and the North American Colonies, no doubt because they had shown the disposition to resist injury. He issued a circular despatch to the governors of colonies, stating his intention, but also stating that convicts would not be introduced without the consent of the inhabitants. A copy of this despatch was sent to the Cape of Good Hope: by the same ship was sent a separate despatch, announcing that an instalment of convicts, persons punished for offences arising out of the Irish disturbances, would be sent at once; and they were sent. Not only, therefore, did Lord Grey violate the position which the Cape had maintained with

so much painstaking perseverance, but he "added insult to injury" by professing to await the consent of the colonists, and then proceeding to act on the presumption of a consent which, as his past experience must have taught him to know, was the last thing that he had a right to expect from the Cape. In the treatment of the colony, therefore, the Minister showed a remarkable combination of vacillation, presumption, and unfairness. The colony stuck to its purpose. Its conduct afforded in every particular a contrast to that of the imperial Minister. It was consistent throughout the affair, perfectly explicit, and strictly practical. The colonists organized themselves very generally to maintain a passive resistance against the Government, so long as the importation of convicts should be threatened: a pledge was taken that none of the convicts should be employed; that no house should be open to the newly-landed English immigrant; that no intercourse should be held with those who aided the Government, and that supplies of food should be withheld from all the state departments. Some few colonists endeavoured to compromise matters by a trimming course; but the indignant and contemptuous treatment which they received soon stifled every hope of that kind. It was obvious that the whole colony was engaged with a hearty assent in this passive resistance. Had the governor braved it, not only would Government have become impossible, but the Ministers of Government would have starved. Governor Sir Harry Smith chose the only judicious course when he reduced his obedience under the orders from home to a minimum, and determined to retain the convicts on board ship without attempting to land them until he should receive further instructions from his superior. At the date of the last intelligence orders had arrived from Downing-street to send away the convicts who were about to sail without having set foot on shore; the Cape had gained its object in every point.

The success of a small community in thus wresting a policy from the hands of an imperial Minister, holding at command the resources of the most powerful Government in the world, appears more signal and instructive when we note the elements of the policy in the contest on both sides.

Lord Grey, the English Minister, had been regardless of consistency; he had wavered in his own purpose, even within the despatch of a single mail: and had presumed that the small community would follow his wavering. He had not thought necessary to keep faith with this small community: but had held out a promise in a circular, and then presumed impunity for breaking his promise before it could reach those to whom it was addressed. The Cape was consistent to its own single purpose of repelling convictism from its shores throughout the times of quiet and the times of trouble, and by fastening on that purpose with bulldog tenacity, the small community beat the Minister who had the resources of the British empire at command. Here then we see a powerful Minister proclaiming a policy in the face of the world, attempting it, and failing: a colony, far from the largest, wealthiest, or strongest among those dependents on England, also proclaiming its policy, sticking to it, and carrying it out in the teeth of the British Government.

Lord Grey was regardless of the moral point,—the tainting of a population with an infusion of convictism. The Cape made that point is all in all; and the Minister who disregarded moral considerations is obliged to yield to the weaker province.

Lord Grey throughout his attempt, as it appears by the result, was prepared to take the advantage if he could get it, or to give it up if he were thwarted. Certainly his policy was not worth any devotion. The Cape colonists threw themselves body and soul, men and goods, into the contest,—they burned their ships; they went on without thought of retraction, prepared for any result but that of yielding the object upon which they had fixed their regard: public devotion has carried the day.

Lord Grey's spirit has been ungenerous; the spirit of the Cape was generous. The Minister did not scruple to promise, and to break his promise; he tried to surprise the Cape into an assent, presuming a servile obedience. Thwarted in his endeavour, he does not scruple to vent his annoyance and mortification by unjust slurs on the conduct of Sir Harry Smith, who certainly had pulled the Government through the period of embarrassment with a minimum of damage; indeed, the slur is so unjust that in subsequent des-

patch Lord Grey is obliged to retract it; practically confessing the meanness of the reproach. The colonists have sacrificed personal interests to the moral character of the community. In spite of some angry passages incidental to a period of contest, they have preserved a fair relation with the Governor. The Governor himself has spared no trouble, has avoided no difficulty; has consented to incur obloquy on the one side and unjust disapprobation on the other; manifestly intent on the one object of doing the best he could for all parties. A generous purpose, and a thorough devotion to it, characterized the spirit which has actuated all parties in the Cape: the generous purpose has carried the day against the ungenerous.

Could we in England do the same as well as our Cape cousins? Are we at this day in possession of the same public virtue? Have we the same loving regard to moral objects, the same loving care for the character of the community—of the country? Could we, the great English People, emulate that small community, "that brave nation warred on by cranes," in setting up a high purpose and standing by it? Could we agree upon a national policy, organize ourselves for its attainment "brave the deterring consequences with equal hardihood," and carry out our purpose with the same prompt, unflinching resolution? Unquestionably the result of the Cape contest shows that that there is a source of safety stronger than the possession of costly dock-yards, immense wealth, well-stored arsenals, or standing armies; it is the possession of a moral purpose; a generous spirit and uncorrupted public virtue.

THE MESSRS. SANDARS ON THE COST OF WHEAT.

A FURIOUS controversy has been going on for the last two or three weeks between Mr. Sandars, M.P. for Wakefield, and the *Times*, respecting the price of wheat in foreign markets. The discussion arose out of a statement made by Mr. Sandars, in the House of Commons, that he could import the best Stettin wheat into this country at 33s. a quarter. Upon this the *Times* pointed out the inconsistency between this statement and the fact that, in Mark-lane, the best wheat commands a price ranging from 45s. to 50s. a quarter. In reply, Mr. Sandars insists that he was correct in his statement, and in support of it he quotes foreign grain-circulars. Unfortunately for his view of the case, whatever plausibility there may be in his arguments, the facts are all on one side. The best Dantzic wheat at Mark-lane on Monday last was 45s., the best Baltic red 39s. a quarter. If Mr. Sandars is able to buy the latter quality on such terms as will enable him to offer it in Mark-lane at 33s. a quarter, one would imagine that he might easily monopolize the whole of the grain trade in this country.

In connection with the question of the comparative cost of wheat in England and other countries, we have been much struck with some statements in a pamphlet by Mr. S. Sandars, brother of the Member for Wakefield, entitled *Observations on the Elements of Taxation, and the Productive Cost of Corn*. The great object of Mr. Sandars's reasoning is to show that "the question of a free trade in corn is essentially a labour question—a struggle between the labourers and employers of foreign labour at 10d. a day, and the labourers and employers of British labour at 1s. 6d. a day, both parties having one common market for the sale of their products—London." In trying to prove this point, he tells us that "a quarter of British wheat, costing 50s., has at least 20s. worth labour embodied in its cost;" but we are utterly unable to discover by what process of reasoning he arrives at this conclusion.

If we resolve the cost of producing wheat into its various elements, we shall find that in the United States the labourer receives a far larger share of the produce of his labour than the wretched English labourer obtains for his. Taking the price of wheat in England at 40s. a quarter, and the money wages of the labourer at 10s. a week, which is rather above the mark, it is evident that the farmer obtains a week's work of one man for two bushels of wheat. On the other hand, assuming the average price of wheat in the United States to be 32s. a quarter, and the money wages of the labourer to be 20s. a week, which is pretty near the truth, the American farmer, instead of only two bushels, has to give five bushels of wheat in exchange for a single week's labour of one man. This being the case, we should like Mr. Sandars to explain how he contrives to come to the strange

conclusion, that the English farmer is not able to compete with the American farmer on account of the high rate of wages in England.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA.

WHILE the Government is haggling with Parliament over the modicum of constitutional principles to be infused into the legislation and executive of the Australian colonies, it seems to be deferring the settlement of a question that concerns intimately the wellbeing of those dependencies, namely, by which route steam communication with them can be best established?

Tenders have been invited and have been sent in by the principal packet companies, and all that appears to be waited for is the decision of the Admiralty on the different proposals. It has been asserted that the decision is delayed by the reluctance of the East India Company to surrender into the hands of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Company the line between Suez and Bombay, which is now held by the steamers of the former, but is urgently required by the latter for the effective development of the Indo-Australian mail service. A second conjecture is, that a wish felt to serve another large and influential steam proprietary has retarded the decision. In either case the public anxieties, both in the colonies and the mother country, demand, on the ground of the public interest, a speedy settlement of the matter.

Meanwhile we may briefly examine the different plans which have been laid before the public and the Government; and in doing this we must confess our obligations to the author of a clever pamphlet on "Steam to Australia—The Rival Routes." The author, besides confirming our previous impressions on the subject, has thrown upon it new and important light, by indicating both additional inducements for the adoption of one route, and additional reasons for the rejection of another.

The route by the Cape of Good Hope to Adelaide, and thence to Sydney, it is asserted, might be performed by steamers in sixty-three days from England; namely, to the Cape thirty days; thence to Adelaide twenty-eight; and thence to Sydney; making a total of 13,880 miles, to be performed at an average rate of something over 220 miles per day. If no other consideration were to militate against the adoption of this route, it should at once be set aside by the fact that between the Cape and Adelaide (a distance of 6100 miles) there is no coaling station, which renders it impossible to keep up the rate of steaming necessary for the performance of the voyage within the stated time.

The line by the Isthmus of Panama proposed by the West India Mail Steam Packet Company would be to Chagres, on the Western coast of the Isthmus, 5850 miles, which is now performed in thirty-six days from Southampton; from Chagres to Sydney, a distance of 7960 miles, the mails would be for the present conveyed by an United States Company in about forty days, at the outside rate of 200 miles per day; making a total of seventy-six days from England. It is asserted that a saving could be effected of 1108 miles and ten or twelve days between England and Chagres by alteration in the route, and diminution of stoppages; but it is clearly shown, on the other hand, that no more than six days could by possibility be saved by this reduction of miles run over, and that would be effected at the expense of some of the most valuable traffic, and is, therefore, unlikely to be carried out by the Company. Taking this saving into account, the transit would be reduced to seventy days, with the disadvantage that the service would be performed (at all events for a time) on the other side of the Isthmus by the steamers of another and a rival nation; and that, after leaving Chagres, the nearest point at which a coaling depot could be established would be at a distance of 4500 miles; while it must not be forgotten that the run from Southampton, and the nearest point of the West Indies, namely, Barbados, is 3897 miles—with only one stopping-place, Madeira, at a distance of 1287 miles from England. The disadvantages of these vast intervals, involving diminished traffic and necessity for increase of stowed fuel, to the exclusion of both passengers and merchandise, are evident enough.

The route by Suez and Singapore, for the completion of which tenders have been made by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, may be stated thus:—From Southampton to Singapore (via Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Aden, and Ceylon), 8390 miles; at present performed, under

ordinary circumstances, in forty-nine days. From Singapore to Sydney, through Torres Straits, 4400 miles in twenty-two days, at the same rate that we have allowed on the Western side of the Panama route. Total, seventy-one days from England; five days less than the estimate via Panama under present arrangements, and but one day over the lowest practicable estimate by that route. Moreover, the time of the route through Suez will be materially lessened by the increased rate of speed of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's vessels, owing to the recent improvements in their boilers and machinery. The Pottinger, one of the vessels destined for the service beyond Singapore, recently made 260 miles per day; and from the well-known capabilities and enterprising spirit of the company we may calculate on a saving on this account of at least seven days; bringing the time of route down to sixty-four days; or, under favourable circumstances, not improbably to sixty days.

It may be needless to allude to the collateral advantages of this last-named route—in the increased number of convenient coaling depôts; the additional traffic of goods and passengers; the intercommunication between this country, the Levant, Egypt, Ceylon, Borneo, Malacca, the rest of the Eastern Archipelago, and India; and the facilities for intercourse, especially between the last-named place and Australia. An unmistakable source of benefit would be opened to both countries from the means of transit for the purpose of permanent or occasional residence which would be offered by the establishment of such a line of steamers as that contemplated to Sydney by Singapore.

We have dwelt upon the commercial and social advantages of the Suez route. Is there no other reason why it should be adopted, and without delay? Were the advantages by the other routes ever so undeniable, the time that must elapse before they could be realized would militate against their adoption; whilst here we have one which could be entered upon at once. And how much good and healing effect on the colonial mind, acerbated by the consciousness of long neglect and apathy on the part of the Colonial-office, would be produced by the prompt adoption of a route which possesses the favour of the Australian public, might be made use of immediately, and would be carried out with punctuality and efficiency in British steamers throughout! How much, indeed, we leave to be imagined by those who are aware of the generalizing influence of a conviction entertained by a colonist that he is really cared for by the mother country.

REMUNERATIVE PRICES IN 1825.—It is rather amusing to contrast the tone in which the Ministerial journals tried to raise the drooping spirits of the farmer, when suffering from low prices some twenty or thirty years ago, with the language which the *Times* and *Globe* adopt when addressing the same class at the present day. The following quotation from the *Courier* (the *Globe* of that day) of the 27th of August, 1825, illustrates the contrast. After remarking that the weather was very unsettled, and that the harvest was likely to prove an indifferent one, the Ministerial organ thus congratulates the farmers on the prospect that prices are likely to rise to a remunerative point:—

"We do not speak lightly on this point, for we are aware that his Majesty's Ministers have been fully alive to the inquiries from all qualified quarters, as to the effect likely to be produced on the markets from the addition of the present crops to the stock of wheat already on hand. The result of these inquiries is, that in the highest quarters there exists the fullest expectations that, towards the end of November, the price of wheat will nearly approach to 70s. a quarter; a price which will afford the extent of remuneration to the British farmer recognised by the Corn Laws."

What a sad change for farmers since that period! Instead of 70s. a quarter, the averages are now little more than 35s., a reduction of almost fifty per cent. And now the Ministerial journals are endeavouring to persuade that much-abused person, "the British farmer," that, in average years, he will probably obtain 40s. for his wheat, and that if he do so he ought not to complain.

THE CREDIT SYSTEM AT OUR UNIVERSITIES.—In an article on the credit system at Oxford and Cambridge, the *Standard* ably exposes its tendency to degrade the character and blast the prospects of those who come to the ancient seats of learning for very different purposes. The writer describes the condition of a student who, after having sunk the comfort of his nearest friends in the same gulf which has swallowed up his own, "retires to a curacy to contrast its solitude with the expenditure which neither his means nor his position enable him to indulge." The result is most demoralizing to a large portion of the clergy. "Hence, in too many instances," says the Conservative journalist, with excellent candour, "an incurable meanness of character, a continual craving after the stolen indulgences of the university, resulting in a self-seeking and greediness of gain, painfully inconsistent with the profession to which the worldly self-seeker belongs." The only effectual remedy which our contemporary can see for such a state of things is, "to break down the credit of students by making all debts incurred at the university irrecoverable at law." Would it not be worth while to inquire whether such a sweeping

measure would not have the most salutary effect upon the community at large? What a mass of iniquity, injustice, and social degradation would be swept away were the Legislature to decide that, after a given number of years, no debt of any kind should be recoverable at law! It is a mistake to suppose that this would "destroy credit": it would separate all *sound credit*—a knowledge of substantial means or reliance in personal integrity—from the factitious credit which attains its final flower in bills, its final triumph in the bankruptcies that now agitate our courts with bustle through their multiplicity, and with wonder through their immensity.

GEOGRAPHICAL MORALS.—How miserably inefficient must be that Government which finds it necessary to transport its subjects to keep them out of harm's way. Prevention is indeed said to be better than cure: but the prevention which consists in merely evading consequences can hardly be taken as a case in point. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," was the old dogma; but the new Whig doctrine is not to resist but to flee. Earl Grey, in his despatch to the Cape, remembering "that agricultural labourers transported to New South Wales proved a valuable accession to the community," believes "that the Irish convicted of political or agrarian offences, which out of Ireland they would have no temptation to repeat, might be removed to a colony where there exists a great want of labour, with great advantage not only to themselves but to the colony." Unhappy Ireland! Is there no want of labour there? Is it only in colonies that Irishmen may live "with great advantage not only to themselves"? Lord Grey's despatch is a sweeping censure upon the misgovernment which tempts men to offence; which (forgetting the truthful sentence of Bacon) seeks only to remove the seditious, instead of taking away the causes of sedition.

RUMOURS AND FALSE NEWS.—Many-tongued, lying Rumour has had a busy time of it in the last few days. Riots and revolts, marchings and countermarchings, diplomatic squabbles without end, one would think enough of these were in the world, without recourse to the inventiveness of Rumour. Yet not so easily is she contented; but must add her particular stories of bullets found in priests' houses (said to be in the Haute-Marne,) and the church-doors sealed in consequence; of riots in Paris by troops stationed at Limoges; of plots to assassinate the President on his return from Vincennes, the assassins only deterred by the "firm demeanour" of Changarnier. The Pope too, says Rumour, has died of poison, administered by the Cardinals, who have predicted that unless he abdicate or retire to a convent, he will never enter Rome alive. But the King of Denmark is especially favoured by the dusky goddess. He has been seriously ill, has died, has slightly recovered, has suffered from a disease whose "terrible name cannot be trusted to paper," and which can "grant him but a short respite upon earth," has again recovered, is quite well, and has never been even indisposed. So Rumour wages. The following extract from No. 36 of a papally-licensed journal, the *Vero Amico del Popolo* of Rome, is our last quotation from the same respectable authority:—

"London is one of the most populous cities in existence. It is the metropolis of Protestantism. But do you know the number of true Protestants it contains? I will tell you. The true Protestants of London are 371,000, divided into the following classes: 12,000 boys systematically brought up to crime, 30,000 professed robbers, 6000 receivers of stolen goods, 23,000 persons who have vowed to get drunk in taverns every day, 50,000 spirit drinkers, 150,000 men and women who exercise the trade of — and — (left blank by decent Rumour—*Vero Amico del Popolo*). And the rest of the inhabitants? The rest are all Catholics, or inclined to Catholicism."

A MODERN CINCINNATUS.—Espantero is coming out strong as a wine-dealer. Withdrawn from politics, the Duke of Victory is devoting himself to the cultivation of vineyards and the manufacture of "wines of the Rioja." Foiled in developing free institutions, he is seeking the advancement of his country by developing "Ebro claret." If less direct, perhaps, his patriotism will not be less effectual. Espantero's claret is said to be "a pleasant sort of Bordeaux," which would be decidedly popular throughout Europe; and the newly-invented produce "promises to make the district of Logrono and la Rioja one of the richest in Spain." Riches bring power, and Espantero may yet win his most fruitful victory in the wine vat.

THE CHURCH IN MALTA.—The churches in Malta, Catholic and Protestant, are at issue. For fifty years that the Anglican Church has been there established, the members of that communion "have amicably consorted with the Roman Church." Since, however, the Maltese have elected their own representatives in the Council, a change has taken place. The Roman Catholic dignitaries thus sent to the Council have been discussing that portion of the code which relates to the punishment of those who should profane or disturb religious ceremonies, and they have managed to alter the projected articles so as to assert the supremacy of the Roman Church, to class the Anglican with dissenting forms, and, to mark the difference yet more strongly, by increasing the penalties for offences against the Roman Church. Whereupon the Bishop of Gibraltar protests, arguing that "the supremacy of the English Crown carries with it of necessity the supremacy of the religion of the Queen and of the people of England;" and that the attempt to make the Church of Rome dominant in Malta "is an attack upon the supremacy of the Crown and the fundamental laws of the empire, and an invasion of the rights and privileges of the Catholic and Apostolic Church of England." The Roman Church asserts its right as the religion of the country, the Anglican as the religion *ex officio*; the "Established Church of Scotland" in Malta is of course beneath the consideration of either party. This is one of the many church commotions now multiplying. It is imitating on a small scale the old quarrel so powerfully illustrated in Ireland, and has at least this value, that it helps to keep attention alive to a question that everywhere requires settling, the question of religious freedom.



Open Council.

There is no learned man but will confess he hath much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON.

We find it impossible to insert a considerable number of letters which we have received this week; the more so as a very large proportion are upon the same class of topics—"the right of subsistence out of the soil," or the more general subject of common-work. Letters of this kind we have received from every part of the country, a fact in itself of some significance. Many of them concur closely in their arguments. For some few we may find room next week.

Correspondents who send us letters for our Open Council will very much facilitate our task of selection, and our ability of insertion, if they will contrive to squeeze what they have to say into as short a compass as possible. Compression is difficult, but it never damages solid matter. Those who write for limited space should check the natural tendency to run into "mere remarks," and should do their best to stick to statements of fact, or argument. And that, indeed, forms the strongest kind of style.

To the letter signed "B" we have given insertion, although the length made us hesitate. So able a writer might have made it shorter, and nothing but its length made us hesitate at all.

We have struck a personal reflection out of the letter by "One who has seen Many Communities." We will not let free discussion in our columns slide into personality or wrangling. Our excellent correspondent did not go beyond a very usual degree of licence; but perfect freedom of discussion implies forbearance from whatever may check your antagonist's utterance—harsh construction being one check.

A FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Brompton, April 8, 1850.

SIR,—I perceive from the *Times* of this morning that a large number of clergymen in the archdeaconry of Totnes, with Archdeacon Froude at their head, have boldly resolved to demand that the Church of England shall no longer remain the slave of the State. In an address to the Bishop of Exeter, expressing their gratitude to him for the way in which he has upheld the doctrines of the Church in the late appeal against the decision of the Court of Arches, they complain of "the palpable unfitness as well as hardship of submitting the Church's doctrines to the final judgment of a tribunal neither of her own choosing, nor necessarily composed of her own members." Now, this is certainly a grievous hardship, and one to which no earnest, sincere, consistent Episcopalian can much longer submit. What is the value of a religious creed which can be taken up and altered to any extent by a Council consisting possibly of Infidels, Unitarians, and others to whom such employment is a mere jest?

The clergymen of Totnes express a hope that the present agitation will lead to such an adjustment as shall give to the Church of England "the power of determining within herself all questions of doctrine and discipline, a power exercised by every other religious body in the empire." Yes, but on what condition is it that all other religious bodies are allowed to exercise that power? Is it not because they have asserted their independence of the State, and undertaken to support their several religious establishments without asking aid from the State?

If the clergymen of Totnes and those who hold similar opinions are thoroughly in earnest in their wish to possess the power of determining all questions relating to doctrine, within the Church, they must follow the example of the Scottish Presbyterians and form a Free Church of England. Were the Bishop of Exeter to declare himself in favour of such a movement, he would soon discover what number of the men who address him are thoroughly consistent and sincere in their profession of attachment to "the Catholic Church." If the agitators are not prepared to go that length, the sooner they give up their meetings and addresses the better.

I am, yours truly,
T. MONTGOMERY.

ROBERT OWEN: THE GOOD TIME COMING.

April, 1850.

SIR,—I suppose the people ought to "follow their Leader," but to do this usefully the right way must be indicated to them. Will you permit me, having long attended to the subject, to lay my views briefly before them?

That which is immediately wanted to relieve all classes from their present difficulties is productive employment for all the working classes; and employment so productive that they may be all well fed, clothed, lodged, educated, united, and locally well governed, without charitable aid from any parties.

These results may be now attained by plain common sense, arrangements easy of practice, provided governments and people can be induced to change the false principle on which alone society has been based from the beginning, and now found it upon its true principle.

Until this shall be done every attempt to improve the condition of society, through any political change, must fail.

It is this fundamental error that has created the obstruction to all social improvements; and it will, as long as it shall be maintained by the authorities of the world, continue to prevent the adoption of any permanent measures to rescue mankind from the evils which have been inflicted upon our race, and which have necessarily emanated from that fundamental error.

The question to be tried is, has experience now given to the most advanced portion of mankind sufficient wisdom and moral courage to perceive, and openly acknowledge, that this error is the origin of evil to man, and to publicly abandon it and all its demoralizing and irrational consequences?

If the governments and people of Europe and America have now sufficient strength of mind and moral courage to investigate this subject, they may immediately ascertain the causes of good and evil among men, and the plain common-sense mode by which the causes which continually produce evil may be for ever removed; and the causes which will for ever produce good may be made to supersede those which hitherto have been allowed to produce evil.

And thus may the tree of knowledge of good and evil, and the means by which to remove the latter and permanently secure the former, be made known to the human race.

And this is "the good time that is coming."

ROBERT OWEN.

THE GROWTH AND CULTURE OF MURDER.

SIR,—From the strictures in the *Leader* on the judgment of Justice Talfourd, there is a branch line of argument which will lead to the conclusion that society generally shares the same exquisite refinement—that its conduct is on a parity with the judgment of the Judge.

The good people of Bideford are neighbours to all the world; no one will justly deny the family resemblance; they do as other people do: they saw week after week the barbarities inflicted on the poor girl; some saw, others heard; the girl might be tortured, starved, beaten, anything, indeed, short of "the last crowning murderous act"—it was no business of theirs. When the victim has sunk under these cruelties, is past recall, dead, actually, veritably dead, then it becomes a public affair. The streets are placarded with the familiar fact of "another horrible murder." Society is a moment startled, exclaims how shocking, is voluble of indignation, turns round, and slumbers again. Is not this the weekly routine?—as if all murders grew up in a night, like mushrooms, no one knows how; as if there were no murderousness without the culminating result—Murder; no death in life, only AFTER it. It is the last pea that kills. Not many weeks previously, we had the account of a child nearly beaten to death by its father, having been chained up twenty-four hours at a time, starving and half frozen; not once, but as the neighbours were aware, repeatedly. Now, we have a wife murdered by her husband, who was proved to have been in the constant habit of violently ill-treating her. Here are three cases of the most revolting domestic tyranny—the tyranny of the master over the servant, of the father over the child, of the husband over the wife. Three distinct relations of social life are represented, and in each instance of arraignment the final act was only one of a series of habitual and brutal injuries; well known to be of no mushroom growth in either case. Is not this the deadliest bane of society, that it is always waiting the irretrievable? The cholera must come and bid the graveyards yawn before sanitary measures receive any attention. Royalty needs not any forewarning of the gathering hurricane which is to sweep it away. The doctor is paid to cure when disease has prostrated the sufferer; he has no function for preserving health. The law steps in when the injury is done, brings the offender to justice, passes sentence, and the majesty of the law is vindicated. But where is the reparation? Is the dead child restored to its mother? are the bleeding hearts of the orphaned healed by the mockery of retribution?

"Downing Street" is not the only Augean repository needing the arm of Hercules. Our Statute Book is yet uncleansed, and the accumulated rubbish and barbarism of bygone centuries form and regulate those powers and responsibilities which are the basis of a nation's weal and woe. The fatal results lately chronicled were preventable by human means, if due regard had been paid to the just restraint and the rational delegation of human power. The girl at Bideford, how could she escape oppression? the oppressed are generally the friendless; had there been responsibility resting with guardians or overseers, an active not a passive responsibility, the deed had not been done. Many persons in this, and in the other cited instances, were cognizant of the cruelties perpetrated, yet as it was not imperative on any one in particular to restrain the wrongdoers, injury grew to murder. We can set on foot and work effectively an organization for seeking out cases of cholera, why not of cruelty? The race of Neros and Domitians is not extinct in modern life. Turn over the newswire only for the thirteen weeks of the present year, and we shall find record during that short period of time, of the murder of four wives by their husbands, of six instances of brutal assaults and attempts at murder on wives by their husbands, of five cases of cruel treatment of children by their parents, and about a dozen cases of infanticide and desertion of children.

The despotic power which the law accords to the husband over wife and children, speaks loudly in these facts its gross injustice. It is not credible that Mrs. Moir or any other wife would suffer day after day the cruel blows, or the nameless tyrannies harder to bear than blows which make life worse than death, if redress could be obtained; it is folly to refer them to the law, they have not the means to purchase it. Canova, when dying, refused the offices of the priest because the crucifix was so bunglingly executed. So many, deeply injured, will suffer to the last extremity, refusing the services of the law, rather than trust themselves to its cruelties and bungleings. In the classes of life where these wrongs are most flagrant, the wife has no alternative but to remain with the husband or starve; the law regards her but as a chattel or property of the husband, who also has absolute power over the children, and can utter not vainly the heartless, cruel taunt, lately heard in the judicial court at Paris, "Dare to thwart me and I will send your sons to the colonies, you shall never see them again." The law recognizes nothing of mother's wretchedness, stares blankly at a mother's woe; and the father, secure in his castle of domestic privacy, exults in malicious triumph; a triumph which the law concedes, and which even now in many a home trembles upon the very verge of murder—there needs but "the crowning act." The statistics of the French courts supply us with instruction, with warning if we will. In the year 1847 there were in France 1168 applications for personal separation, almost exclusively presented by wives, 94 only having been made by husbands; 1074 for *ill-treatment and excesses*. There were also 5724 applications for the separation of personal property. From these numbers judge how many there must be who would not bring their cases before the public,—who prefer to endure all rather than be parted from their children; how many cases of revulsion and antipathy, more frequent, yet making life as miserable as any actual violence—and then ask, can the domestic life of the age be healthy, connected in such unrelated relationships? and is it strange that children reared in such pernicious influences leave the homes where coercion and wrangling embitter existence, and enlist in the army or navy, or take up their quarters to swell the abodes of infamy and vice? Society shuns these questions, hushes them up, is exquisitely fastidious; smiles contemptuously on reading of Philip the Third of Spain suffering himself to be scorched to death rather than transgress court etiquette; yet Society will bear any agony rather than have its inherent diseases spoken of, is touchy of personal remarks, will paint, wear masks, or any falsities, only—"consider the privacy of domestic life, pray change the topic." But there is a time when all diseases break up, facts will speak, the most sacred relations of life will not go polluted and outraged and make no sign. Signs are before us if we will read them. The time coming will demand a wholesome revision of those laws which relate to the property and position of husband and wife, of parent and child. Power is too much on one side; there is lamentable proof of it: limit that power, and the individual will restrain his actions; what is true of the state is true of the family, we make tyrants by allowing them the power wherewith to tyrannize. The master knows his power over the slave, presumes upon it, proceeds from taunts to blows; wrong grows by that it feeds on; we may stand aghast and appalled when life is sacrificed in the abuse of power, but for the growth of that abuse society is responsible and reaps its reward.

The crime of infanticide increases through the absence of any salutary provision to allay the last delirious struggle of maternal instinct in the choice of starvation or death; vain is it to look around for asylums like those in Paris for the helpless and unfortun-

nate. We spend hundreds of thousands in untenable Nelson columns and Wellington statues, and call ourselves proudly "a practical people"; devote millions annually on foreign missions, and foreign slavery, while home-slavery is told to console itself in the dispensations of Providence, and home-wretchedness may "go hang." Pity 'tis that so much talking is to be done before action is afoot. Truly we need ever the strong voice of a Carlyle ringing in our ears, "Do the work that lies nearest to thee—do that and live." B.

THE NEW MARRIAGE BILL.

SIR,—The third reading of this bill has been again adjourned until Thursday, the 18th instant. These continuous delays are adopted solely for the purpose of getting up a few petitions from Scotland, on which to hang Mr. Fox Maule's notice of motion, "that Scotland be excluded from the operation of the Bill;" Colonel Chatterton has given notice of another motion, that Ireland be excluded also; and Mr. Roundell Palmer has also given notice of several other amendments!

A very curious meeting took place on Wednesday at the city of Durham, which speaks volumes as to the general feeling of the country on this subject. Durham, it will be recollected, is the richest see in the kingdom, and the clergy in that city are in great force. On Wednesday week two of the dignitaries of the church called a snug little "hole and corner meeting," to get up a petition against Mr. Wortley's bill. As a matter of course, the clergy mustered all the force they could influence to attend the meeting. Somehow or other the intended meeting got wind, and, instead of "a nice little snug party" assembling together, there was a tolerably large gathering, when—after certain speakers had gone through the usual string of unfounded assertions,—to wit, that marriage with a deceased wife's sister was contrary to the law of God,—that such marriages were never countenanced by the Jews, but were always condemned, and so on,—a respectable layman rose to move an amendment, "that, instead of petitioning against the bill, they should petition that the bill do pass into a law." He then went on to show "that in no part of the Bible was there a single clause condemning such marriages, and he was one of those who were ready at all times to believe that the word of God was only to be traced to the sacred volume. That so far from the *Jews* having always spoken against such marriages, it was now known to be a decided falsehood, as the evidence of the Chief Rabbi himself, before the Royal Commissioners, expressly declared, that such marriages were always considered highly praiseworthy, and the usual period of mourning was in such cases materially shortened." The amendment in favour of Mr. Wortley's Bill was then put to the vote, and was carried in proportion of three to two.

Thus then is the assertion of Mr. Roundell Palmer, "that if all England were tested there would be found a great majority against the Bill"—put to the proof, and surely a more favourable place for such a test could not have been found, than in the rich Church establishment of the Palatinate of Durham! There is no manufacture of any kind carried on there; and its College, although only lately founded, is rising into very great importance. It was, however, well observed by Mr. Cobden, when this braggart statement was made on the second reading of the Bill:—"Then why do you not attend the public meetings from whence have emanated so many petitions?" Which it appeared was a question too difficult to be answered by any of the High Church party in the House of Commons; and, consequently, they all of them stood mute on the occasion.

We shall now, however, soon see how all this turmoil will end. It is sincerely to be hoped, that such a large majority will accompany the third reading that the House of Lords will not attempt to act contrary to the wish of so large a party of the people of England, who have so earnestly petitioned that the Bill become the law of the land.

I am, Mr. Editor, your obedient servant,

OBSERVER.

THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE IN RELATION TO THE TEACHER.

SIR,—The case of the Artizan I have stated—that of the Teacher I now submit. In whatever position the Teacher is placed, whatever class of the people he attempts to improve, he has to regret the dearth of books. It is a common thing in a factory for a mechanic who knows, or thinks he knows, more than his shopmates to attempt to impart his reputed knowledge to them. He is, however, seldom so fortunate as to find books to aid him, or to which to refer them. The reason is that various learners require various statements, and books are neither various enough nor accessible enough.

Most teachers of powers of original thought see the same subject from different and peculiar points of sight, and as each operation is published, the chances are increased whereby others may learn. The unguided learner may find confusion in the multiplicity of books, but the Teacher finds in them multi-

plied adaptations. But these facilities are limited by all taxes which enhance the cost of materials. Undoubtedly fiscal concession, trade enterprise, and artistic ingenuity, have cheapened elementary works—undoubtedly they are more numerous and cheaper than they were; but the inquiry is not—are they more accessible than formerly?—but, are they as accessible as they might be, and as they ought to be? The question is not—is the evil of their cost reduced? but, does it still exist in any degree, and can the Legislature cancel it? We have lately seen that many excellent periodicals have ceased through the pressure of the taxes on the materials of their production. The real evil, however, is to be estimated not alone by works which have been brought to an end, but by works which have been conceived than any that have yet been executed. All works are primarily designed to pay, and to pay they must be adapted to the public, and the public being partially ignorant, their prejudices, caprices, and even vices have to be consulted. In proportion as books can be produced cheaply, in that degree can they become purer and more independent in aim. Therefore—but it is also a fact as well as an inference, that books of elementary knowledge and genuine ability are scarce, and good books of all kinds are dear.

At the London University there exists a class, founded by "A Patriot," who, taking the wisest course patriotism can take to save a country, made the highest knowledge accessible to the humblest students. To this class Schoolmasters and Ushers are admissible, at a nominal charge. But the very necessities which make Teachers grateful for this class also limit their power of profiting by it. For the books used are like the knowledge imparted, of the highest kind, and all the new editions even of old classics are dear; and it is not uncommon to hear him who praises the memory of the one "Patriot" pray for another who shall complete what the first began, making books as well as expounders accessible to the poor Teacher.

Let the statesman, however, who lacks incentives to repeal the taxes upon knowledge, go into the manufacturing districts and witness their operation there in paralyzing the efforts of the Teacher. When in Lancashire, two years ago, I delivered several lectures, by request of factory operatives on topics pertaining to the acquisition of knowledge. By some who sought a practical end out of these instructions, a meeting was convened at the Commercial Room, Staley-bridge. The attendance was numerous, and the men were in earnest. It was proposed to form a society, and devote the collective funds to personal improvement, and buying books was a chief feature of the experiment. The subscription was fixed at one shilling per quarter—when cleanly-dressed, well-behaved, thoughtful-looking, anxious men came forward putting down their names, but intimating that it would take them *twelve weeks* to pay *twelve pence*. So long were they daily worked and so poorly paid that the entire resources at their command was *one penny per week*. I felt almost ashamed at having advised these men to get knowledge, and in such districts I have since preferred to deliver lectures on "Knowledge without Books," endeavouring to make those scholars of Society who plainly can be scholars of nothing else.

But this is not half the question; and were it not that I fear to occupy your space disproportionately, I should trace how the Teacher in the class-room and the Lecturer at the mechanics' and literary institution are also hindered by other and serious impediments arising out of the pressure of the taxes on knowledge.

How many solemn adjurations have passed over the people like the idle wind—how many lectures have been thrown away—how many earnest hortatives have fallen like seed on stony ground, because those who were made curious could not gratify their curiosity—as to gratify it being costly beyond their means. How often have I seen knowledge offered like the cup of Tantalus, when it should have been free and flowing as a well-spring of life.

Now I will trouble you with but one remark more, and that of present relevance. Mr. Fox has a bill before the House of Commons for the Secular Instruction of the people. Whether the people are wise enough, or awake enough to implore the House in language not to be disregarded to concede the provisions of that important bill, remains to be seen. But this I know, that if the taxes were off all knowledge, and it could be plentifully diffused through the land, the Legislature would know no more peace until a bill like that was passed. Those who have never tasted the sweets and power of knowledge may be supine about it, but those once inspired become susceptible of that noble thirst which time can never quench. Open schools now in every tenth house (as dram-shops are opened in Scotland), though these school-facilities ought instantly to exist, it is easy to see that they would not be fully used for some time. The precursor in all education of the people is an utterly free and an entirely cheap press. A school (if a school to any purpose) is a

place of intellectual discipline. But to the ignorant discipline is ever repulsive. None seek schools or mechanics' institutions but the awakened, the thinking; none but those sufficiently far advanced to feel the importance and desire the *habit* of knowledge. The newspaper, the periodical, the pamphlet, the book, and the lecturer, must go first, and go everywhere; costless, omnipresent, and sleepless; teaching, suggesting, imploring, in every tone of earnestness and in every well-considered degree of adaptation, "compelling them to come in unto the feast." Those who have lived with the people, sharing their fortunes and their sorrows, knowing their confidences, their distrusts, their difficulties, and their aspirations, will acknowledge the truth of these representations, will know that the blessings of general education can only come speedily in this way. In the name, therefore, of the mechanic in his sooty shop, of the weaver in the stifling mill, of the scholar in his garret, and the Teacher at his desk, in the name of all who hope for the poor or work for them, I ask the Legislature to cancel the imposts which circumscribe knowledge, thus raising the low to the level of the high, increasing indefinitely the happiness of the poor and the security of the rich.

GEORGE JACOB HOLYOAKE.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

We are compelled to confine ourselves to extracts from a mass of correspondence received principally in answer to the letters in our previous numbers.

Eben. Jones replies to W. Thomas:—"That every man has a right to earn a subsistence out of the soil, because, no man having any claim to do so which is not equally possessed by every other man, to grant to some men the right and to deny it to others is injustice,—injustice being simply and only unequal awards to equal claims or prejudicial preference without reason. Mr. Thomas, however, denies the universal right to earn a subsistence out of the soil, 'because,' says he, 'land is a species of property. Land was not in its origin absolute property, is not now so by law.' * * * In one of last week's *Morning Posts* there appeared a very able article on Property, in which it was distinctly stated that the soil of England is allowed by the British Constitution to be monopolized by the British aristocracy, not for any claim over other men that the said aristocracy have to such a possession, but because it is considered that the effect of such monopoly is upon the whole beneficial to the community. Now this is to say at once, and without any circumlocution, that land is not like other possessions that are the result of toil, or skill, or adventure, and which are absolute property to be held good against all comers, but is rather a trust, and like all other trusts, subject to regulation or even to recall. * * * Why, sir, what blasphemy, what practical blasphemy, is this denial to any man of a right to earn a subsistence out of the soil! If any man has not this right then has God dealt more hardly with men than with any other of his creatures. Where God sends even caterpillars he sends fit leaves for them to get their living out of, and we do not find that some caterpillars prevent other caterpillars from using the common source of food so long as there is enough for all of them."

George Smith, of Salford, says:—"No human being that was ever born, or that ever will be born, has any legal, rational, or moral right to one inch more land than he himself can cultivate, or than the requirements of himself and family may demand; and all human beings now living, or that may hereafter live, have that inalienable right. That being the true and legitimate extent of the right of property in land, the title to any beyond that quantity rests entirely upon the conventional right of Might, and that, too, the might of the cannon and the bayonet."

One in reply to Alexander Somerville writes:—"I visited Rapps Community, and Bemers Community, in Ohio, a Shaker Community in Kentucky, and another in Massachusetts. All of these had risen from comparative poverty to the acquisition of great wealth, because they had always taken care to produce by their own labour more than they consumed; and I visited several other Communities, which, like the Socialists at Harmony-hall, failed and broke up, because they did not produce so much as they consumed. The *Whistler* says, 'There is, to shallow minds, an ideal beauty about equality of rights and community of property which leads them to a belief in the possibility of attaining to such a condition.' Now, in all the communities I have visited, though some of their most experienced members were appointed by themselves to direct and manage their general affairs, and to appoint the labour each had to perform, and whose orders were punctually and cheerfully obeyed by all, still there was equality in their condition, clothing, and mode of living, equality of rights, and their property was all held in common. What is actually done by men and women, in a great number of instances, for twenty, thirty, and even seventy years together, as in the case of some of the Shaker Communities, must, therefore, be possible."—ONE WHO HAS VISITED MANY COMMUNITIES: Liverpool, April 5, 1850.

H. W. writing of the "bugbear, Communism," asserts that it is "at our very doors, yet we will not hear it, though we throw away millions through its medium," in philanthropic endeavours, mutual assurances, poor law and trades' unions, and "missionary cemeteries," &c. &c. "It meets us at every step, yet we will not acknowledge it. We have it anywhere, everywhere,—save where it is most needed—at the roots of society, the distribution of labour, which is the distribution of wealth."

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

If the office of literature be, as CICERO says, to charm our solitude and alleviate our sorrows, there can be no dispute as to the literary success of *The Household Words*; and we believe the success in a business view will be ample enough and durable enough to answer those misgivings which were liberally uttered before its publication, and which doubted whether genius could ally itself with "practical" wisdom. The two numbers now issued give universal satisfaction, and with CARLYLE'S *Latter-Day Pamphlets* form the gossip of every reunion. The story of "Lizzie Leigh" excites the greatest interest, and its authorship is much debated. If we may venture to guess, we should say that in it Mrs. GASKELL'S hand is distinctly legible; all the readers of *Mary Barton* will acknowledge the family resemblance. There is a decided advantage in not affixing the names of the contributors; mystery is in itself a source of interest, and readers are cautious in condemning mediocre papers lest they should turn out to be by "distinguished writers."

On the whole, the season is very flat. The only cheering intelligence we have to communicate is the prospect of a new work from the "Oxford Graduate," the title of which, *The Stones of Venice*, speaks of a place and subject worthy of his brilliant style. Mr. RUSKIN has, we are told, taken exact measurements of some 150 palaces and public buildings in Venice, faithful to his old plan of uniting accurate investigation of the facts to æsthetic appreciations of principles and results. The appearance of his *Modern Painters* was an event. It not only placed him high as a critic, but furnished another example of the old truth, that empiricism is as idle and pernicious in Art as in Philosophy, and that only by the recurrence to those eternal principles from which Art itself issues can criticism hope to utter a sane word. Nothing can be more incorrect than the assertion that Mr. RUSKIN'S success was owing to his daring paradoxes. Let any man try to succeed by paradoxes, and not in spite of them! No; his success was great, the effect produced was great, because, amidst rash assertions, incomplete views, and an air of cavalier dogmatism very startling to "grave authorities," there was a keen, delicate, and impassioned appreciation of Beauty, a minute and comprehensive knowledge of the actual appearance of Nature, a genuine enthusiasm for Art, and a recognition of the spiritual influences which mould the emotions into forms of Art. Sweeping out of the traditional humdrum path, he carried his reader with him to "fresh fields and pastures new." He gave an impulse to criticism in the right direction. Those who reject his partialities and dislikes, who bow not with him before TURNER nor before PUSEY, who still hold firm to their faith in CLAUDE and CUYE, must nevertheless acknowledge that his writings are almost a national benefit in their influence.

A "national benefit" is seldom acknowledged by the nation unless it takes some physical shape; the moral influences which less obviously but more potently determine the national greatness and prosperity of a people, escape recognition and reward. We can shout jubilate, and vote titles and fortunes to the captains of our valiant armies who carry the English standard into the heart of India; but those other captains, who lead the whole nation in its magnificent march of civilizing conquest, are left to battle with booksellers and a niggardly Government. Peacages and splendid pensions await the one; the other in his declining years may deem himself fortunate indeed if, after much solicitation on the part of friends, and some mild "agitation" on the part of the press, Government consents to place him on the list swelled by nobodies—(but nobodies who have "interest!")—and allots him a pension of a hundred or two per annum. There is THOMAS DE QUINCEY, for example, a man whose acquirements and powers are so remarkable as to puzzle us what rank to assign to him, lest we fall short of his due, or seem extravagant in our praise; and of whom this much at least is incontestable, that to learning, both various and profound, he unites a generosity of spirit and a subtlety of acumen almost amounting to genius, while, as a master of English composition, he is quite unrivalled among living men; yet he who

with his pen has fought the terrible battle of Want, who has never had the leisure to compose finished works, forced as he has been to squander his riches on the periodicals of the day, he is now old, infirm, and in poverty; but friends clamour in vain at the Treasury door for a pittance to give him declining years repose. Truly is the literary man no worse off than the operative: both toil for the day's wages without a prospect of ultimate release, without a prospect of meeting old age and sickness otherwise than as beggars. He who labours with his head, and he who labours with his hand, both are salaried operatives; but he who labours with the sword, who, instead of producing, destroys, who, instead of bringing light and solace, and expansion of the soul, and the blessed amenities of intellect, brings desolation and destruction, and rears for himself a monument of skulls, a name resonant with the sorrowing cries of the slaughtered, he is more than a salaried operative, for him there is half-pay at the worst, peacages and pensions in reserve. Yes, this is the justice of society. When the charger becomes unfit for service we remember the battles he has borne us in, and turn him into a paddock to graze henceforth in indolent security; but the horse who never champed bit to the blaring thunder of the march, who has only carried us daily to and from our Homes, and served us in the vulgar offices of life, when he grows old the paddock that awaits him is, first the costermonger's cart, and next the knacker's shambles!

By the side of this dark reality of literature let us place a bright rumour, though, as we have not seen the cheque, we cannot vouch for its absolute accuracy, namely, that Mr. COLBURN has paid Mr. ELIOT WARBURTON a thousand pounds for the new novel, *Reginald Hastings*—a price which some years ago was not uncommon, but which now has quite a fabulous aspect.

In France the talk is still of M. PONSARD and his *Charlotte Corday*; the impartiality of which, as might have been foreseen, has displeased every one. JULES JANIN, in one of his brilliant feuilletons, protests vehemently against the propriety of treating such a subject at all, while GUSTAVE PLANCHE, in his pedantic, but direct and trenchant style, declares the subject a good one, though ill managed by the poet; and THEOPHILE GAUTIER, with the true solicitude of a Romanticist for the importance of language, is most struck by the "concessions" made by the poet to the new school.

The new volume of Chateaubriand's *Memoirs* contains an ample account of that lovely and lovable woman, Madame Recamier, not more celebrated for her beauty than for the deep and lasting friendships she formed and inspired. We are accustomed in England to consider the French as incapable of friendship; whereas, to any one who knows France sufficiently to form an opinion on the subject, nothing is clearer than that the French are immensely our superiors in that respect. The only example we have to rival the well-known attachments which bind public men together in France is in certain Parliamentary friendships. Our "natural enemies" have greater and profounder capacities for friendship than we have; they are more friendly and have more life-attachments. One very charming illustration is afforded by these *Memoirs* of Chateaubriand who loved Joubert, Fontanes, Ballanche, and Madame Recamier, as men seldom love in England—especially celebrated men.

DE LA HODDE is again in the field with a *Histoire des Sociétés Secrètes et du Parti Républicain*, which professes to unfold a panorama of conspiracy from 1830 to 1848. Of its perfect veracity none of our readers will entertain a question; everything from such a source has the inestimable advantage of being prepared by a candid, impartial, and generous police totally above tampering with the truth!

LEDRU ROLLIN is about to present to us the picture of our own miseries. In his *Décadence de l'Angleterre* which we see announced, there will doubtless be many points worthy of our serious attention, for things strike a foreigner with a distinctness our familiarity forbids. On the other hand, Frenchmen are rarely remarkable for looking at countries with any discrimination; they either look at England with predetermined conceptions of our perfect social and political arrangements, or with the stupid prejudices of a *badad* to whom the boulevard is the universe.

It is in vain to expect a week in which DUMAS will not appear in one of his multiform shapes;

this week we have to notice his avatar as the editor and arranger of the Memoirs of the great tragedian TALMA. Somebody has said that the lives of actors are the only readable biographies; the life of one so eminent in his art and so historical in his friends, promises unusual interest; while DUMAS will take care that nothing be wanting on the score of "arrangement."

FREDERIKA BREMER'S LAST BOOK.

An Easter Offering. By Frederika Bremer. Translated from the Unpublished Swedish MS. By Mary Howitt. Henry Colburn.

A CHARMING—an exquisite book, full of pleasant thoughts and gentle emotions, fitly named an Easter Offering, bringing as it does images of piety and peace into our domestic circles. It consists of a tale called *The Light House*, and rambling remarks on the present aspect of life in Denmark, under a somewhat ambitious title of *Life in the North*. We shall enrich our own carefully-selected department of *Notes and Extracts* with some pleasant passages from the latter, and for the present confine ourselves to the story.

Ellina is taken as a young and dreamy girl from the beautiful Southern dales of Sweden, where she laughed and wept amid a large circle of affectionate friends, to the rocky home of her husband Axel in his eagle's nest on the wild western coast of Bohuslan—an archipelago of naked grey cliffs surrounded by the roaring, restless sea of Cattegat. Years pass over. Seven sons have blessed their union. But—

"Sickness, anxiety, much labour, in rough and smooth, with but limited means, had greatly changed her both outwardly and inwardly. She was an agreeable woman still, but the bloom of her youth was over, and the soul, that soul which anticipated so much that was great and beautiful in life, which believed that it should advance from one brilliancy to another, till its whole world and life became transfigured in beaming light, this soul had long since said farewell to all its anticipations, to its dawning thoughts and hopes, in order to inclose itself within the innumerable web-like filaments of domestic cares and anxieties, daily repeating themselves like the waves upon the rock, like the shadow-side of the lighthouse, like the sighs of the autumnal wind. Ellina fulfilled her duties faithfully. But this did not make her happy. For, although the path of duty leads at last to happiness, as the six working days to the Sabbath, still, in the meantime, people may be unhappy. The deeper wants of Ellina's soul were not satisfied by this path. She felt as if something living and beautiful within her soul had been buried by degrees, as if it had been interred beneath the weight of earthly perplexities and petty cares. She seemed to herself sorrowfully changed.

"Ellina was no longer gay; she felt, at times, disposed to weep over herself. That is the way with an infinite number of women. They feel themselves capable of receiving life and all things in one great and beautiful whole. They believed that they should advance, were ascending in knowledge, in love, in joy as in an upward-tending metamorphosis. But the stream of life has carried them away to desolate regions. Their world has become oppressive. They are incased by earthly cares; they are caught in the meshes of petty objects, of petty thoughts, and petty interests. They are themselves obliged to frame these very meshes. Then does life lose for them its splendour, and the mind its morning-brightness and elasticity; then is the soul dejected; then, not unfrequently, does the temper become soured, and the horizon ever more contracted, ever more gloomy. In some calm moment, they cast an upward glance and look around and within themselves, with sorrowful astonishment, and exclaim, 'ought this to be so? Is life nothing more? Was it for nothing else that I have existed?' And they remember the yearnings of their youth. 'Dreams!' say they then; 'heave a sigh and let fall a tear, and then go on again in the daily weaving and spinning—and spinning until they have spun their shroud, and that is the end of their day on earth.'

The husband too, he has become changed. He has grown reserved, sometimes harsh. He fears she spoils the children, and sends them away from her to school, that they may escape her influence. A strange feeling, almost of hostility, rises up between them:—

"The will of the father overcame that of the mother; but when he tore away the youngest son from her embrace—and he might have done it much more mildly—he tore also asunder a tie which had bound her heart to his. Thus did Ellina feel it.

"When she was left alone, she felt herself very solitary. There were now no little arms to clasp themselves, morning and evening, around her neck; no little head to kiss every night when she went to rest; no joyful meriment through the day, which made her forget all that was wanting to her soul.

"All this she now missed; and the worst of it was, that Axel also was away, not merely from home, but also out of her heart. She felt it there so desolate, so dark, that she became afraid of it. Yes, it is very probable that she would have borne the boy's absence very differently, if she could only have preserved the image of her husband beautiful in her heart."

At this point of the story we had uneasy misgivings. We dreaded lest we were once more to

listen to the wearisome story of a *femme incomprise* and her harsh husband. We foresaw in Ellina the insufferable German heroine with vast aspirations and a soul frustrated in its holiest aims occupying itself meanwhile with the preparation of sausages. In this union of the æsthetic and the culinary the Germans are unrivalled. Their heroines struggle to compass the Infinite, and eat largely of sauerkraut; their souls are wrecked, but their appetites remain. Life is a blank to them; *doch schmeckt das Essen!*

With heavy forebodings did we see Axel bring home three strange gentlemen to his desolate wife. When he held her tightly to his heart, and she remained cold in his embrace, we knew what was coming. One of those three strangers had a sympathetic soul, and would pour the balm of sympathy upon Ellina's wounds. Nothing could be plainer. Yet what is human sagacity? We were wrong; we were pitifully at fault; no such denouement was contemplated by the authoress, no such puny moral was to be evolved. No; something healthy, something tender, something true, lay within the story, and she has beautifully unfolded it. Listen!—

"Ellina stood upon a rock-terrace by the sea-side, close to her home. The night was beautiful, bright and delicious, such as September nights often are on the western coast of Sweden. A deep repose had come over nature after the storms of the previous days. The yellow leaves fell silently from the trees: the flowers being withered as their stalks, but the moonbeam kissed them, and gentle breezes passed, sighing over them. It was as if some power of love were now abroad and full of the spirit of beneficence and reconciliation. Even the billows of the Cattegat seemed to be under the influence of its fascination, and rolled in softly, as if murmuring of love, and laid themselves upon the granite breast, which so often had fretted and broken their wild swell.

"Ellina looked upon the falling leaves, the withered flowers, the gentle moonbeams above them, the fascinated billows, and an indescribable feeling of pain overpowered her. The woman who was otherwise so quiet, now wrung her hands, raised them towards heaven, and exclaimed aloud, whilst the so long restrained and bitter tears streamed forth over her cheeks:—

"Ah! I am merely a faded leaf—a withered flower—but no glance of love rests upon me. Oh! that I might fall as these; might die before my heart dies, before I become embittered in feelings! Father in Heaven! take thou me to thy house, because all on earth is closed against me. My children are taken from me; my husband loves me no longer. Youth, health, joy, desire for life, love, and hope, are all gone from me—gone for ever!"

"But before the upraised arms had dropped, other arms had embraced Ellina, and a voice whispered into her ear:—

"What has gone, gone for ever?"

"It was the voice of Axel.

"But Ellina was too much excited at this moment to reply. She turned from him her tearful countenance and only wept, wept.

"He remained silent, but continued to hold her to his breast, that she might weep there. It was kind and manly of Axel.

"When Ellina was calmer, he said:—'Ellina, come with me to our Rest, on Sprak Island. The night is beautiful, and—I should like to talk with you there.'

"Ellina went silently, leaning on her husband's arm, down some steps in the rock, and into a little green skiff, the boys' boat, and called 'the North Star,' which, now impelled by Axel's vigorous pulls at the oar, sped lightly over the softly-heaving waves.

"Both husband and wife sat silent, Ellina with downcast, tear-laden eyes; Axel with his looks resting upon her."

Seated on the little rocky island, with the waves tumbling at their feet, and the moon serenely smiling down upon them, they pour forth what has long been pent up in their hearts—they own their mutual faults, and in the confession own their mutual love. Axel says:—

"I am too proud, Ellina, perhaps, also, too sensitive to compel a love which is not given me of free-will. I have drawn back because you also did the same. But perhaps I have been—yes, certainly, I have been more austere, more distant than I wished to be, or was aware of. It is difficult, Ellina, to discover how many errors we fall into. But one thing is certain, it could not go on much longer as it has been for some time between us. Give me your hand: read in my heart; see there what my intentions are, and let me read in yours; tell me all—all your sufferings, all my faults, all which—

"Oh, silence!" interrupted Ellina, and kissed away the words from Axel's lips. "Say no more. Oh! that I had but understood you before—had understood the wealth of your heart, and what your feelings were, and you never should have had cause to complain of me. But now—God bless you for what you have said! Axel! we must begin to live anew for each other. Let our hearts be open to one another, let us never separate more! Let it be as it may about our removal from these rocks, it will still be well, that I know, because you have again removed into my heart, and I feel myself again at home in yours. And now see, I am your wife, your servant, your friend, whatever you will, my Axel. Come life, come death, suffering, sickness, care, I shall still be happy, and thank God in the certainty of your kindness, of your love: in the certainty that you are mine, and that I am yours for ever!"

Is not this worth cartloads of ordinary French novels? Is it not touching in its truth? And then hear the "moral":—

"Ellina is no longer pale and suffering. She has now a blooming, middle-aged countenance, with the calm of happiness in her whole being, and she very frequently says to young wives:—

"And when the first time of love is over, there comes a something better still. Then comes that other love, that faithful friendship which never changes, and which will accompany you with its calm light through the whole of life. It is only needful to place yourself so that it may come, and then it comes of itself. And then everything turns and changes itself to the best."

Thanks, Frederika, for thy charming lesson! We all of us need to be told again and again that the love in our hearts is infinite, if we would but trust in it; that the goodness of human nature is infinite, if we will but suffer it to obey its instincts, and not cramp it by spasms of amour propre and ignoble suspicions of others. Half the misery of life results from misunderstanding, and half the misunderstanding arises from the obscure doubt which lurks in our minds as to whether others are as good and loving as ourselves. If we sincerely believed others to be as noble as we know our own instincts prompt us to be, we should soon approach our own ideal.

A WOMAN'S BOOK.

Woman in France during the Eighteenth Century. By Julia Kavanagh. 3 vols. Smith and Elder.

THIS is an agreeable, an instructive, and, on the whole, an accurate book. It is eminently a woman's book, written by a woman for women; and as such will probably command the circulation it merits. The subject is of one of complex and far-reaching interest which demands, for worthy treatment, powers and acquirements greatly transcending those of the present authoress; namely, powers of mental analysis and portraiture, of quick and deep insight, of broad and cautious generalisation, with a knowledge of life and literature—especially the former—at once comprehensive and particular. But if Miss Kavanagh is unequal to the execution of such a subject conceived in its real significance, she is by no means incompetent to the execution of a conception, lower indeed, yet still welcome, and which, when the prejudices and wants of the reading public—especially the "light readers"—are taken into account, may be said to be really more consonant with her desired object than a work of truer and profounder character.

The position held by women in France Miss Kavanagh has successfully and strikingly portrayed; their influence she has not so well succeeded in indicating; partly from the want of real grasp of the subject, partly from the vague and *essayish* tone which runs through the work. This last remark indicates at once the great defect and the great merit of the book; it is an essay on the part played by women in France. As an essay it is full, well planned, interesting, and preserves an unity seldom met with in works of so sketchy a character; all the remarks, all the memoirs, have thus a distinct bearing on the general theme. But as an essay it loses all vitality, all dramatic movement, all biographical value, and becomes a book to be read and forgotten. Strangely indeed have the fine capabilities of the subject been sacrificed. Woman in France! No; rather let the title be, "*Concerning women in France.*" No woman breathes and moves through its pages. We hear, indeed, frequently—something too frequently—of the "frivolousness" of the women, but we see it not; we hear of their debauches, but we hear not the flying champagne corks, the clatter of glasses, and the genial hubbub of laughter; we hear of their "wit," but where are the brilliant traits which were wont to "set the table in a roar?" we hear of their beauty, but we do not see it; what pictures can be created by vague and general enumerations, cataloguing a woman's features? who is to conceive from them the insolent Beauty, her rouged cheeks lending additional lustre to the daring luxuriousness of her eyes, her powder and pompons creating a charm piquant in its defiance of nature, and corresponding so well with her whole artificial tone of existence? Miss Kavanagh cannot paint a portrait, though she has tried her hand several times in the course of these volumes; and the same artistic deficiency is visible in her efforts at representing character. The women do not breathe, flirt, jest, philosophise, eat suppers, and go irreverentially to mass in these pages. At times we were disposed to attribute this want of life to the want of sympathy

she felt with her people—(though real dramatic faculty is superior to all personal likes and dislikes)—and this seemed borne out by the curious apology she makes somewhere respecting the profligacy she is with “deep reluctance” forced to mention; but such a supposition is unfounded: her virtuous characters are quite as faintly drawn as her daring debauchées.

It was doubtless a delicate task for a woman to portray the life and manners of the eighteenth century; and Miss Kavanagh has secured the chance of a wider public by the colourless purity of her portraits, against which, as critics, we protest. The “Wives and Mothers of England” would have shown little favour to the true thing; the present pretty version of it may be entrusted to their daughters in safety: for not only is there no sanction of immorality in fascinating pictures of its brilliancy and wit, but there is at times even a bigoted intolerance, which, however it may displease the far-sighted, will assuredly chime in with the prevalent tone. We select, as an example, the ungenerous interpretation of Madame de Parabère’s very natural conduct:—

“The idleness to which noble women were, like all persons of their rank, reduced, added to their degradation and heartlessness. Notwithstanding, however, the general profligacy, the conveniences were still strictly observed. Any high-born lady, chiefly known for the irregularity of conduct, could, like Madame de Parabère, the mistress of the Regent, act the part of a heroic and devoted wife. If her husband was attacked with the smallpox, then so fatal, she made her will, bade her relations farewell, and became the patient’s nurse; her own life often being the price of this sacrifice to vanity and ostentation: when, like Madame de Parabère, she was so fortunate as to survive the trial, she did not fail, as soon as it was over, to return to her intrigues; whilst the world still rang with praise, which all knew to be as false and hollow as this seeming devotedness.”

If Miss Kavanagh knew more of the world she would know that even in the vicious sections of it, generous feelings are not swayed by notions of “virtue”; and she would understand how Madame de Parabère could be scrupulously oblivious of the seventh commandment—or regard it only as a shopkeepers’ prejudice—and yet have a thorough affection for M. de Parabère, and be willing at any time to risk her life for him. We altogether disbelieve in the motive attributed. It was not “display”: it was genuine impulse; at any rate one should believe that, till the contrary can be established by better evidence than an insinuation. Yet Miss Kavanagh, and the poor feeble-eyed many who cannot or will not look morals plainly in the face, first assuming that if a woman loses her “virtue” she loses her humanity, find it an easy task to explain all contradictions to their theory by motives of “vanity” and “display.”

We scarcely know how to characterise the loose tone in which the authoress speaks of “Atheism,” throwing that word with strange recklessness upon people who were anything but Atheists, and occasionally twaddling in this style:—“His mingled atheism and superstition were the natural result of a mind too conscious of its own immorality not to wish to deny the existence of an Almighty Being, and too much imbued with native faith to do so with impunity.” If this passage be not claptrap, it exhibits profound ignorance of human nature. And surely atheism is foolish enough and meagre enough, without needing the additional infamy of being “the natural result of conscious immorality.” It is dangerous—it is worse, it is ungenerous—to attribute motives to those who differ from us in opinion; and half the heartburnings and malevolences which perplex the world are owing to this want of generosity.

In general, we should say, Miss Kavanagh takes the commonplace view of all her people. We met with no delicate or subtle remark indicating a perception of the shades and complexities of character. On the other hand, let us hasten to add, we met with no extravagance: nothing oracular, paradoxical, or impertinent. The whole style of the book is such as might be expected from a well-informed, sensible, pains-taking woman: agreeably written (with some vulgarisms, among which we were pained at finding the odious “talented”) and carefully compiled. Of its general accuracy we can speak. Details and dates are avoided, so that the chances of error are few. We could mention two or three errors, but they are unimportant; and we only ask how Madame du Châtelet came possessed of blue eyes? (she was a brunette, and was famous for her black eyes), because the detail, trivial in itself, indicates how little Miss

Kavanagh has realised to her own mind the *physique* of her heroines.

The essay-like structure of this book has destroyed that which might have formed its most agreeable and most useful object—the union of biographical sketches with a distinct purpose. Here it is the purpose which prevails: the sketches are incomplete and meagre. With facts before her she resolutely avoids them, substituting generalities in their place. Madame du Châtelet, she tells us, “received a classical education, to which was united every accomplishment then in fashion.” This somewhat useless phrase is meant to supply the not insignificant facts that Madame du Châtelet began a translation of Virgil at fifteen, and the fragments extant give a good idea of her appreciation of the original; she had also made grammatical and literary studies of the great writers of the seventeenth century, thus forming that polished taste which was subsequently so serviceable to Voltaire; she had a charming voice, and learned music, declamation, as well as dancing, equitation, and card-playing, details which we borrow from the same source that Miss Kavanagh has consulted for her portrait, and which give a much more definite idea than a hundred generalities would give; since it is with such details that an artist makes up a picture.

As an essay the work embraces a distinct view of the Regency, the Reign of Louis XV., that of Louis XVI., and the Reign of Terror, with sketches of some of the most celebrated women of the epochs. But it is a serious omission to pass over the actresses and opera dancers in a work of the kind; Sophie Arnould, for example, one of the wittiest of French women, and one whose empire was far more extensive than that of several mentioned in these pages, deserved a place because she was a type. Better, however, omit her altogether than spoil the subject by a sermonising judgment; for, to confess the truth, Sophie was undeniably “frivolous,” and had the faintest possible notions of chastity. She held a salon, and her salon was more powerful than a newspaper. In it D’Alembert, Diderot, Mably, Helvétius, Duclos, Rousseau, and the rest, assembled to ridicule the universe, and to tear away the mask from hypocrisy. She herself, the daring queen of these daring innovators, uttered things which flew all over Paris, and which, if uttered by a man, would have met with but one answer—the Bastille. One of her brilliant *mots* we quote, because it so energetically characterizes the laxity of the period. “Marriage,” she said, “is the sacrament of adultery.” Everybody applauded.

As we said before, it is rather in the essay department that Miss Kavanagh’s strength lies; and, as an example, we quote the following passage from her somewhat exaggerated but, on the whole, striking retrospect of the regency:—

“The free development of philosophy was greatly favoured by the personal characters of Fleury and the young king; for both, though through different motives, forbore to interfere with the professors of the new doctrines. The ambitious vanity of Louis XIV., as well as his natural tastes, had led him, in the spirit of his contemporaries, to identify himself with almost every remarkable movement which took place. It was thus that he controlled literature by becoming its patron, and completely ruled French society. The indolent and apathetic Louis XV., on the contrary, gave up the political power to his ministers and mistresses, and abandoned to women and literary men that social influence which an unerring instinct had induced his predecessor to secure. The name of Louis XIV. is connected with every event of his reign; that of his descendant might almost be omitted in the history of the eighteenth century. In this indifference of Louis XV. to the personal exercise of power, originated a wide separation between the court and French society, unknown until his reign.

Hitherto the monarch had been the great arbiter of public opinion. He might be influenced, but the influence was at least exercised in his name. The court ruled everything, from the state matters to the success of a new play. What the court praised was inevitably admired in Paris. Such at least had been the case during the long reign of Louis XIV. The little heed Louis XV. took of anything not concerning his pleasures, and the timid scruples of Fleury—both so much opposed to the ardent and progressive spirit of the age—first created a feeling of independence in Parisian society. This feeling soon became one of antagonism, at first scarcely concealed and openly declared in the end. The court long affected to condemn the new power which had thus sprung up into existence, and vainly attempted to supersede it when it had, in time, become the organ of the age. The attempt was, from its nature, doomed to fail; and, after a brief struggle, Versailles bowed before the decrees of a world from which it had, until then, held aloof with contempt.

It need scarcely be mentioned that this new power was under the sole and immediate control of women. Whilst men of talent were neglected by the court, the clever

ladies of Parisian society received them in their saloons. It was the women who complied with the demands of the age, which neither Fleury nor Louis XV. understood. The cardinal feared and disliked literature, which he considered a dangerous tendency; the king was wholly indifferent to it. A few women seized on that important power: they gave evening and dinner parties, and soon drew together the great men of the day. When it was found that they could raise men to reputation and to social power more securely than ministers or favourites, their court superseded that of royalty. Thus it was that women were among the first who paved the way to those great changes, in the religious and political state of the nation, which occurred towards the close of the century.

During the earlier portion of Louis XV.’s reign, the philosophic power developed itself slowly, but not wholly unperceived. Already every literary production, history, play, tragedy, or romance, introduced those significant declamations against fanaticism and the priesthood, which, at a later period, were directed against religion itself. It was natural and inevitable, under an absolute government, that books should be rendered an organ of public opinion. Though the laws granted no institutions, literature was invested with all the force of one, by the general and tacit consent of society. Had Fleury been a man of daring and commanding mind, he might easily have conciliated the philosophic party, and softened, if not subdued, the vehemence of their attacks on religion. But, though aware of their dangerous influence, the cardinal would neither conciliate them by protection, nor irritate them by persecution. He never ventured beyond a timid repression, which they scarcely heeded.

This medium course was that which the prudent and cautious priest adopted in governing France. By merely allowing the country to recover in peace and quietness from the disasters inflicted by the ambition of Louis XIV., he effected much good. But even whilst he made peace and economy the basis of his government, Cardinal Fleury was well aware of the numberless evils, in which, though he felt his utter powerlessness to remove them, he partly foresaw the approaching ruin of the state. The accumulated miseries of centuries lay beyond his reach; they required no less than the vigorous and personal interference of the nation: in other words, a revolution. This Fleury felt; and with the gloom natural to old age, he considered this dissolution of the existing order of things as the end of the world: the increasing spirit of irreligion confirmed him in this belief. With a strange infatuation, the cardinal, however, persisted in his conduct towards that power of which he perceived the gradual and fatal advances. Without venturing on serious opposition, he rigidly refused to allow the philosophers any other influence than that social one of which they were already possessed; either undervaluing this influence, or feeling his own inability to repress it. When the young and libertine Abbé de Bernis—la bouquettière du Parnasse, as his frivolous talent for versifying had made him be called—asked the old cardinal for a living, Fleury peremptorily refused. ‘You shall never,’ he observed, ‘obtain a living whilst I live.’ ‘I shall wait, then,’ was the prompt and audacious reply. And a few years later Cardinal Bernis governed France, with Madame de Pompadour.

“It has been observed, and with great truth, that the philosophers were treated too much like the young abbé. As long as the cardinal lived, they could do little outwardly; but, like the abbé, the whole body bided their time, inwardly exclaiming, ‘we shall wait;’ and like him, too, when the old cardinal was in his grave, they governed France—as they had longed to govern her—by the power of ideas.

“Thus, favoured by the indifference of the monarch and the timidity of the ministers, philosophic literature developed itself freely. We have used the term ‘philosophic literature,’ because literature, which in France had been learned and religious during the sixteenth century, poetical and brilliant in the seventeenth, became almost exclusively philosophic in the eighteenth century. Never, indeed, was there an age less fitted for faith or poetry: the deep and withering corruption of the regency seemed to have destroyed the very root of these faculties in man. To know and study himself—not, however, in an elevated point of view—became his greatest intellectual want. Abstract reasoning superseded feeling and imagination: a cold analytical tendency is remarkable in the earliest productions of this period. But however heartless the action of intellect may have then been, it was full of life and energy. After the grossness and licence of the regency, a reaction took place in the feelings of the nation, and there arose a universal wish for intellectual excitement.”

A little caution is necessary in reading this book to correct its hasty generalisations. Thus, thinking only of the encyclopædist, she says, “The whole nation seemed to have gathered up its strength, in order to bring down the old and tottering social edifice.” Not the whole nation—there was a strong Conservative party; or else why should Helvétius have made that humiliating retraction of his doctrines—why should La Mettrie have been so bitterly persecuted—why should Diderot and Voltaire have been forced to such subterfuges?

We do not find so many passages for extract as might have been expected; but in justice to the authoress we will give this touching narrative of the close of Mademoiselle Aïssé’s story:—

“It was the bond of an affection so true, so tender, and so constant, which Aïssé had now to sever. She accomplished her task mournfully, but without weakness. The Chevalier d’Aydie had been well aware of Madame de Landrin’s efforts to reclaim his mistress. He never sought to oppose that lady’s influence, but in the most

touching terms he besought Aissé not to deprive him of her love. He renewed his offer of marriage, which she again declined. The dread of alienating him for ever made her long delay her resolve; but that fear at length yielded to conscience, and she accordingly announced to the Chevalier d'Aydie, that friendship must henceforth be the only feeling between them. Her sorrow was too evident, and he loved her too well, to indulge in useless remonstrances or reproaches. He submitted to her decision, not without grief, but resignedly; protesting that her affection, whatever name she might give it, would ever be his only source of happiness, and promising never to seek her influence against the dictates of her conscience. He religiously kept his word; and, though mingled sorrow and remorse had faded the numberless charms which had first enchanted him, his love for his Circassian mistress ever remained fervent and true. In the sincerity of that affection, he made her the whimsical proposal that, when their years were such as to justify such a course, without giving rise to scandal, they should both reside under the same roof, and spend the end of their life together; thus realising in their old age the unavailing dream and longing of their youth. Made-moiselle Aissé smiled and wept as she heard him; for she knew she would never live to see even that second dream fulfilled.

"She ardently desired to consecrate her penitence, by confessing her sins to a priest; but Madame de Ferriol would not probably have sanctioned such a step, and Aissé was now too weak to go even to the neighbouring church. A plot to enable her to carry her desire into effect, was accordingly concerted between the chevalier, Madame du Deffand, and Madame de Parabère. The latter lady called on her friend, and took her in her carriage to the house of Madame du Deffand, where a clergyman had been brought by the Chevalier d'Aydie. This solemn reconciliation of her soul to God gave Aissé a peace of mind she had never known till then. The weary strife was over, the bitter cup was quaffed, and she felt spiritually strengthened and purified by its wholesome bitterness. Her conscience was at rest; the chevalier loved her still; she might love him without feeling burdened by the sense of sin or shame. But this happiness—for happiness it would have been—came too late. The strength of life and youth had been spent in the long struggle against passion. Signs she could not mistake soon told Aissé that her life was drawing to a close.

"She had suffered too much not to feel resigned; but she scarcely dared to contemplate the chevalier's grief. As though he could by his gifts have hoped to win back the life of a being so beloved, he was constantly heaping presents on every one around her. But love availed not against death, and each day brought Aissé nearer to the term of her existence. A few days before her end, she thus addressed Madame Calandrin, for the last time. 'The life I have led has been very wretched. Have I ever had an instant's joy? I could never be with myself. I dreaded to think. Remorse never abandoned me from the time that I opened my eyes to the extent of my errors. Why then should I dread the separation of my soul, since I feel convinced that God is all goodness, and that my real happiness shall date from the moment when I leave this miserable body.'"

EUGENE SUE'S SOCIALIST NOVEL.

Les Mystères du Peuple. Par Eugène Sue. Tomes 1 and 2. W. Jeffs.

The appetite for trash must be voracious indeed when ten thousand copies of such a work as this can be sold in France alone. Or rather, to do the public justice, it is not so much the appetite for trash, as the love of seeing political and social questions treated by a romancist, which lends the interest of curiosity to so miserable a production. Here is a socialist novel, dull beyond all known profundities of dullness, ridiculous to a height that almost towers into the sublime, yet moving amidst the agitating scenes of revolutions, and pretending to display the radical causes of a people's misery, and to point to an issue from their troubles, and borne by its title, its purpose, and its author's name into thousands of families. To us the fact is significant. The *mystère* which it reveals is, that people are eagerly, blindly, clamorously seeking for some solution of the great questions flung up from the depths upon the surface by the universal convulsion of 1848. The pamphlet—the article—the history, even the novel, is welcome which treats of these questions. Yes, even Sue is welcome; not to us, indeed, for to us he is never welcome; but to thousands. They read his inept and wearisome declamations, they follow the slow windings of his impossible story, they read the ample notes which he so diligently culls from newspapers and other recondite sources, and they accept without misgivings the base flatteries with which he panders to their prejudices and ignorance. And in their tolerance of this shameless effrontery of a writer whose pretensions to aristocracy, a little while ago, were only less ridiculous than his pretensions to sincere democracy are now, we see an evidence of the deep disquiet and anarchy which agitates them: any aid is welcome so that it swell their ranks; the devil himself fighting under their banner would receive his epaulettes, and the ensign of command. This it is

which makes the fortunes of demagogues. Sad as it may make the philosophic onlooker, the sadness lies not in the fact of the man chosen but in the cause choosing—not in the fact of so vulgar-minded a charlatan as Sue being erected into a "personage," but in the state of opinion which can render such alliance as his to any cause tolerable!

In no one quality of a writer is Sue respectable. He is not sincere: his socialism and democracy are transparent artifices. He cannot see the truth, and therefore cannot paint it. He has no power of depicting human nature, but only a brutal melodramatic power of startling contrasts, and rapid changes of scene. He has no healthy sympathy with what is elevated and heroic, none even with what is merely honest; but his artifice consists in fastening upon some hideous subject having in itself the fascination of horror, and in presenting this in violent contrast to the common amenities of life. Thus in his *Mysteries of Paris* we are alternately carried from the boozing-ken to the ball-room—from the fetid atmosphere of thieves and prostitutes to the fresh breath of pastoral scenes. We are introduced to an amiable society, of which the principal members are: Polidori, poisoner on a grand scale; Le Maître d'Ecole, murderer by nature; Le Chourineur, murderer by instinct; Barbillon, murderer; La famille Martial, murderers; La Chouette, murderer; Madame d'Orbigny, murderess; Le Squelette, murderer; Gros Boiteux, murderer; Bras Rouge, cat-purse and spy; Mère Butette and Père Micou, receivers of stolen goods; Tortillard, robber; Le Vicomte de Saint Remy, forger; Jacques Ferrand, murderer, forger, hypocrite, and everything else that is amiable and accomplished in crime; Cécily, a female demon; L'Ogresse, procuress; Madame Seraphine, the accomplice of Ferrand; the Countess Sarah Macgregor, a diabolical woman, but one whose hands are—the exception is worth specifying—not stained with blood. The *Mystères* amidst which moved characters such as these had that morbid kind of interest which centres in criminals and their doings; and the book was carried all over Europe by the fascination of what was intrinsically loathsome in it. The *Juif Errant* followed: it also adroitly moved amidst depravities and horrors, and had great success, though considerably less than *Les Mystères*. With these efforts Sue had exhausted the topics of crime. He tried it again with *Martin*, but the failure was gigantic. He made another desperate effort with *Les Sept Péchés Capitaux*, and here it was thought he had reached the lowest depths of imbecility and dullness, until *Les Mystères du Peuple* appeared to show that in the lowest depths there are depths yet unfathomable, in the profoundest abysses of stupidity there are vistas of stupidity even more appalling and profound!

Fortunately for his pocket—and that is all he can possibly care for in the matter—Sue discovered, even while writing the *Mysteries of Paris*, that a glorious vein was to be opened by making novels "social." The unrest of society was so great, and the wrongs of some classes so profound, that any dramatic presentation of them would be "effective." That vein he opened. His knowledge was next to nothing, nor did he even trouble himself to acquire much; newspapers and encyclopædias were at hand—what more facile or more effective than to quote long passages therefrom in the notes, to support the windy declamation of the text? Finding that process successful, he has in the present work added some passages from Thierry, Guizot, and other recondite sources, giving thus an air of erudition to his pages which must somewhat astonish even himself.

Would you know the purport of this accumulated erudition, and these grand philosophic expositions? It is nothing less than the demonstration of this thrilling fact: In France there are two peoples, Franks and Gauls, a conquering and a conquered nation. The Franks are the nobles; they are miserable egotists, insolent oppressors, heartless, mindless hypocrites with—oh crown of infamy!—white hands. The Gauls are pure, generous, meek, forbearing victims, with great souls, exalted aspirations, and—dirty hands! Observe, the essential point is cleanliness of hands: virtue is in inverse ratio to soap. The Gauls are generous not because they are men, but because they are prolétaires and have dirty hands. The Franks who do not work, how can they have generous feelings? Well, these two races, according to Sue,

compose the French nation; as the Normans and Saxons compose the English; and, though you would scarcely have suspected it, the history of France had been nothing but the oppressive dominion of the one race over the other, which Sue now calls upon the oppressed Gauls to destroy.

The plan is not without its adroitness. Conceive how flattering to the prolétaires to be told that they too have an ancient lineage! Birth? Why, M. Lebrun here traces his descent distinctly through a period of two thousand years—he is more noble than all the Faubourg St. Germain. And observe, not only has this one family preserved its pure blood through so many centuries, it has been historical in each. The "sovereignty of the people" was all very well, but what is that electoral fiction compared with the reality of "noblesse"? What is *le peuple-roi* to *le peuple-noble*? Surely, O prolétaires! you will subscribe to a journal the feuilleton of which is so unexpected a Herald's Office for you all? "Come, buy, buy, buy! here are ancestors, here are genealogies, buy, buy! No more talk about 'inferior birth' possible, buy, buy!"

We were precipitate in saying the book was dull beyond redemption; the buffoonery of its philosophy is not without some interest; and this it must have been which carried us through the two volumes, for of story there is absolutely not enough to fill twenty pages. To those who wish to see what can be done in that department of political philosophy we commend the book; to those who wish for anything like a story, any picture of human life, or even any "startling incidents," we can promise nothing but disappointment.

Wherefore have we gone out of our way to notice this book? In general our selection of foreign literature will be made upon a principle of directing the reader to works we consider really valuable; in this case we wished "to point a moral," and the moral is this: One of the mischievous effects of repressing or refusing open discussion of great questions is that passions are inevitably roused on both sides, and instead of Inquiry we have Combat. I bring forward what I hold to be a truth; instead of listening to me and arguing with me, you attribute bad motives to me, and dangerous consequences to my truth; you are angry, and I get angry also. War has begun. In such a struggle all weapons are good that wound, all missiles snatched up that can hit a mark; and hence the lies of a Chenu are made to serve the purpose of discrediting the republican party, and the trash of an Eugène Sue serves to exasperate the rancour of the Republicans against the Conservatives.

NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

A NOBLE RULE OF LIFE.—Our great and most difficult duty as social beings is, to derive constant aid from society without taking its yoke; to open our minds to the thoughts, reasonings, and persuasions of others, and yet to hold fast the sacred right of private judgment; to receive impulses from our fellow-beings, and yet to act from our own souls; to sympathize with others, and yet to determine our own feelings; to act with others, and yet to follow our own consciences; to unite social deference and self-dominion; to join moral self-subsistence with social dependence; to respect others without losing self-respect; to love our friends, and to reverence our superiors, whilst our superior homage is given to that moral perfection which no friend and no superior has realized, and which, if faithfully pursued, will often demand separation from all around us.—*Channing.*

THE REAL IDEAL.—The passion for sentiment and "bergerie" was, indeed, carried to strange lengths. The Duchess of Mazarin, a fair and florid dame, more remarkable for good temper than for tact or wit, indulged her pastoral tendencies to an extravagant degree. She once resolved to give, in the heart of winter, a fête that should eclipse everything of the kind yet known. She fitted up her vast saloon in a style of extraordinary splendour, with wide looking-glasses that reached from the floor to the ceiling. At the further extremity, a wide recess, separated from it by a glass casement, was beautifully decorated with shrubs and flowers, so as to represent a lonely bower. Along a winding path, a pretty actress from the opera, attired as a shepherdess, was to appear, with dog and crook, leading a flock of snowy sheep, to the sound of soft, pastoral melody. The light of the lamps, and the surrounding draperies, had been judiciously disposed so as to heighten the effect of this little scene, with which the dancers were to be suddenly surprised at the most interesting moment of the ball. The poor Duchess of Mazarin was all impatience until that auspicious moment should arrive; but before she could give the signal that was to summon the shepherdess and her flock, a most unfortunate accident occurred. The sheep suddenly broke forth from their place of confinement, and burst through the glass casement into the ball-room. Panic-struck with the novel sight, and especially with the glare of innume-

table lights reflected in the large mirrors, they rushed in every direction, knocked down dancers, trampled furiously over them, and attacked all the looking-glasses with desperate energy. Ladies screamed and fainted away; whilst the disconsolate Duchess of Mazarin looked on the whole scene of havoc and confusion with unutterable chagrin.—*Keanagh's Woman in France.*

RATIONAL RECREATION: ITS EFFECTS.—The sobriety in many parts of the continent appears to me to be caused by the greater prevalence than with us of physical pleasures, such as music and dancing; the abundance of cheap wine of so mild a kind that it can scarcely intoxicate, and the prevalence of social and mental pleasures of a sort that can be enjoyed by all classes, such as access to public walks, picture-galleries, &c. In this country, some of these innocent and rational pleasures, instead of being encouraged, are discountenanced; and the consequence is, that many persons who would otherwise engage in them, fall into the debasing indulgence of drunkenness; or, if they resolutely seek the other better pleasures, they are often driven in quest of them to the houses of disreputable persons, instead of enjoying them in the open day, in the presence and with the approval and sympathy of respectable friends and neighbours. Among boys and girls in manufacturing towns this want of innocent and rational amusement is a fertile source of crime. The spontaneous delight of children in dancing and singing seems to show that music and the dance are natural pleasures, and in themselves perfectly innocent, and that to endeavour to suppress them is to oppose the intentions of an all-wise and benevolent Creator; but the purest gratifications may, by the discountenance of the best-educated and most moral classes, be rendered corrupting, by causing them to be indulged in by stealth, and with the idea that they are sinful.—*Report of Prison Inspector for Scotland.*

IT IS NOT PRACTICAL.—If you propose any experiment for remedying an evil, it is nearly sure to be observed that your plan is well enough in theory, but that it is not practical. Under that insidious word "practical" lurk many meanings. People are apt to think that a thing is not practical unless it has been tried, is immediate in its operation, or has some selfish end in view. Many who do not include, either avowedly or really, the two latter meanings incline, almost unconsciously perhaps, to adopt the former, and think that a plan, of which the effects are not foreknown, cannot be practical. Every new thing, from Christianity downwards, has been suspected, and slighted, by such minds. All that is greatest in science, art, or song, has met with a chilling reception from them. When this apprehensive timidity of theirs is joined to a cold or selfish spirit, you can at best expect an epicurean deportment from them. Warming themselves in the sun of their own prosperity, they soothe their consciences by saying how little can be done for the unfed, shivering, multitude around them. Such men may think that it is practical wisdom to make life as palatable as it can be, taking no responsibility that can be avoided, and shutting out assiduously the consideration of other men's troubles from their minds. Such, however, is not the wisdom inculcated in that religion which, as Goethe well says, is grounded on "reverence for what is under us," and which teaches us "to recognise humility and poverty, mockery and despite, disgrace and wretchedness, suffering and death, as things divine."—*The Claims of Labour.*

Progress of Science.

THERE are various modes of viewing the truths of science, as there are various views of the Houses of Parliament, and various aspects under which every landscape may be seen. In the abstract, apart from the actual progress of society, Science has nothing to do in a newspaper. As far as it is connected with the advance of opinion, with change of every kind in society, and with the development of man's life generally, it is an essential adjunct to a newspaper. Science now mixes itself up with daily life, and no man can say that he has nothing to do with it, neither can any well-educated man be without some of its greatest truths familiarized to his mind. In a country so thoroughly artificial, or so thoroughly dependent on so many of the discovered laws of nature applied, and as it were guided by skilful hands, it is not uncommon to see some of the highest laws, the knowledge of which has been gained with the greatest difficulty, made use of to guide us in some of our simplest wants.

Perhaps there is no instance more striking than the manner in which science has been brought to bear on the habits of personal cleanliness. At first no doubt the instinct of a people, disposed to be clean when leisure could be had, and all conveniences easily purchased, and now a law which society has not been able to wield with sufficient force, powerful as its laws of custom are, and which the state has been compelled to adopt, telling every man that he must be clean. He must be clean or he will be unwell; he must be well or he will make others unwell. The necessity for cleanliness made soap, an article long known, much more important than it had ever been, and it became too dear. Science was called on to cheapen it; it made soda from common salt, and soap became cheap.

The state ordains that a man shall be clean, lest the plague attack him, and his neighbours fall a victim; but science has made this command reasonable which before was unreasonable. And in speaking of these subjects we mix up science and state laws, and habits, and substances so humble as to be ridiculous, without respect of things or persons. As the laws of nature act as completely whether in an animalcule or in a system of suns, so science also, which is simply their expression, acts in the lowest as in the highest concerns. It shall be our business to view it, not in its isolation from man, but in its connection with him,—not as a stranger, but as a friend,—not as a dreamer merely, but as an active, unrelenting, and effective workman; exalted certainly very high, with a power that never errs, but stooping also very low, serving the poorest.

Science expresses the laws of nature; the results of these laws give the popular idea, when the scientific man finds the language it seems easy for the popular mind to learn it.

Popular ideas are not to be despised; they are, in fact, our highest ideas; they are the results of science; they are the gold which the scientific diggers have dug and washed out of the soil, and with great toil obtained. But the world as a whole cares nothing for the work, the coin circulates, and no one thinks of the labour necessary to obtain from the earth the sovereign which he earns; he thinks only of the toil necessary to get the grand total result into his hand. The world wants results, and will have them; these results come into society under the name of popular ideas; the world has got what it wanted, and cares for no more; the proof may lie hidden in a dusty book until it be wanted and some other result obtained by its help. The servant may or may not be rewarded for digging up the gold, and remembered with praise and honour; but the result will not be forgotten as long as it can be of any use. The world clings to the sacred result, wrung from the mysteries of nature; constant, enduring, and true, however mysterious at first, in time to become simple, necessary, and popular.

METEORITE.

The *Philosophical Magazine* contains a long account of the celebrated meteor of February; it has been sufficiently described, and we shall only give its distance, as this part of the subject seems to have received an unusual amount of attention, and is very interesting as well as important:—

"During the first part of the progress of the meteor it very rapidly descended obliquely towards the earth in such a manner that it was between 80 and 90 miles from the earth, and less than 50 miles distant, within 4 seconds or 5 seconds afterwards; the two places over which it was vertical at these times being separated by about 17 miles; it then decreased less rapidly till, when over a place about 37 miles from the first-mentioned place (that is after it proceeded 37 miles), it was 42 miles distant from the earth. When over a place about 80 miles distant from the first-mentioned place, its distance from the earth was 25 miles. When over a place 90 miles from the first-mentioned place its distance from the earth was 23 miles. It exploded at the 110th mile, at 19 miles distant from the earth. After the explosion the luminous bodies were seen till within ten miles distance from the earth."

The author believes, from the violence of the explosion, that it was a body of a firm texture, broken up by the formation of an elastic fluid. This gradual and indirect approach to the earth has long been noticed, although it is difficult to tell why a body of it coming from the distant regions of space should not come down more directly. The appearance of these bodies when found gives us no clue to any possible mode of generating gas. They are a most commonplace-looking set of substances, having no elements in them differing from ours; and those elements which they do exhibit seem not to have been disturbed by any force, since they were gradually aggregated, or crystallized, as certain portions of them often are. The outside seems to have been exposed to great heat, and is melted; the heat, therefore, seems to have been momentary, generated probably in passing through the atmosphere. The substances are siliceous, lime, iron, and such earths and metals as we cannot form into gas. The explosion is still to be accounted for. Some meteors seem to have a light like an electric light, and as they come into an atmosphere charged differently in all probability from themselves, and as they may also generate a great amount of electricity, it is not making too great a demand on this so universal agent to make it account for these interesting phenomena perceived on the approach to this earth of strange bodies, wandering stars, which from time to time

are falling, and no doubt gradually enlarging our earth's circumference. This is done by degrees, certainly very small, but no less real, unless there be some mode of compensation, by removing an equal quantity from the earth's surface, of which, however, we have not the slightest intimation. What effect this may have on the motion of the earth in the course of time it is for some age, scarcely for ours, to determine.

PURIFICATION OF LONDON.

A plan for cleaning London seems now to have met with general approbation. The plan is to remove all the refuse by a separate channel, and to clear the river at the same time. The high water at London is often the cause of a great deal of unwholesome atmosphere being driven up on the town, the refuse of some hours sent back by the tide. This fact became evident to one of the engineers whilst a boy. A dead pig was floating on the waters of a small tidal river; sometimes it floated down, and seemed lost, but in a few hours it came back; and from day to day it seemed only to sail up and down the river, not at any time coming up quite so high as it did the previous time. If the pig comes up so does the water; and so when the Thames really looks fine, when the bed is full of water and a fresh breeze sweeps over it, we think what a refreshing thing for the centre of a large town! what a blessing to the inhabitants! but this refreshment is adulterated and impure, and we have not yet got rid of the dead pig. When the sewers flow out into the Thames some miles below London, the stream will then be pure, and then probably we shall have baths at Blackfriars-bridge and the pebbles become visible at low water, instead of the present mud on the banks. Even now the Thames is much purer than it was twenty years ago, the decomposing matter found over a great extent of the surface seems to be entirely removed, the steam-boats have mixed well the whole ingredients, and, whatever the river itself may contain, we have it not collected in putrid masses on the surface, exposed to the air and to the inhabitants. The mud of the river also is rapidly stirred up in the morning by the steam-boats, and is carried away by the stream, whereas in former times it seemed to accumulate and to fill up the river. Probably this may be found to be a value in steam-boats not at first considered. If so, it will be analogous to the advantages derived from macadamized roads. Since they were introduced, roads have increased; the ground occupied by them is very great, but farmers are now finding that the amount of matter ground down upon them is of great value, and, instead of being a waste of land, they may be looked on as great grinding machines to prepare soil for the worn-out fields. But such unforeseen results and advantages, accidental though necessary, are to be found every day, when To-morrow is always coming with a face that no one previously knew, however much we have longed to see it, and however curious to know its character. Of the plan we shall give a fuller account.

SUPPLY OF WATER FOR LARGE TOWNS.—One of the most important scientific inquiries of which the public must take cognizance, is at present the mode of supplying the metropolis with water; we hope those who are accustomed to watch over the public weal will have their eyes open, so that no plan will be adopted inefficient or foolishly expensive, bringing bad water or too little of it, so that we may have to do our work again when our money is spent, or that we may be obliged to do as Liverpool has done, stop in the middle of our work to know what we are really about.

FUMIGATION OF ROOMS.—A correspondent of the *Athenaeum* advises the burning of touch-paper, paper dipped into a solution of saltpetre and dried, for the purpose of purifying the air of a room. It is difficult to see the advantages of this plan. It is probable that the burning of brown paper alone will be more efficacious, on account of the antiseptic qualities of the products, analogous to tar, turpentine, creosote, &c., so much used for fumigating; but the presence of saltpetre in the atmosphere is unpleasant, and cannot be good for the lungs. In all cases of heating saltpetre a little of the solid substance gets into the atmosphere.

NEW GOLD-BEDS.—It is reported that the gold found in Spain promises very well. It will, perhaps, be good for that country; the progress of the European countries around it has not had the effect of stirring it up to any effective extent. Gold may rouse it now as silver once did; at least we shall probably have another experiment to settle the question of the value of the precious metals to a country. Hitherto they have raised some and depressed others; what their true effect is, may probably be expressed in the same manner as their true effect on individuals, where money is for good or evil as the character is "now stamped with the image of good Queen Bess, and now of the bloody Mary," as Hood said.

Portfolia.

We should do our utmost to encourage the Beautiful, for the Useful encourages itself.—
GOSTHE.

POLITICAL FABLES.

No. III.—THE FARMER AND THE FOX'S SON.

Now the Fox's son, who had that night, for the first time, come out with his father on his expedition to the yard, was listening behind the hedge; and hearing what past and seeing directly after the sad consequences which befel the old Fox, took it seriously to heart. "A fox is born a fox," said he to himself, "that is certain. But can't he be better than a fox? Father said, perhaps he might turn into a dog. If he had been a dog he would not have been hanged. Thistles and nettles! Am I a thistle or a nettle? Haven't I four paws, and as sharp a nose, and as good a pair of eyes as the best dog in Christendom? and haven't I a head upon my shoulders? What is it that I want? I'll see about that." So the little Fox trotted off to a dog-breaker who lived on the edge of the wood, and said that he wanted to lead an honest life, and was come to be taught the way.

Now the dog-breaker had a friend who was come to look at his spaniels, and, as he wished to show them off, no sooner had the Fox spoken than he threw open the kennel door: "Hark after him!" he said, pointing to the little Fox; and away they went, dogs and master, as fast as they could go, after the poor fellow, who had to run for his life.

He got away at last. It was a bad beginning, but he wasn't to be discouraged now. With the blessing of Providence there were better in the world than dog-breakers, so he marched off to the village Schoolmaster. "What do you want?" said the latter. "I am a poor cub," said he, "and I want to be taught." "How much can you pay?" said the Master. "I have nothing to pay, unless I steal it," said the young Fox. "What is your father?" said the Master. "Father is hanging up in the Farmer's yard," said he. "Get away, you young gallows bird," said the Master. "Get away, or you shall hang, too,—bringing your thieves' tricks here. There is no place for you here." It was very hard. He put his tail between his legs and crept away.

But he thought, while he was in the way, he would try the Parson. One Parson asked him if he had ever been to church. No, he said; but he would go to church if he could learn to be good there. So the Parson told him several strange things, and asked him if he believed them? He said he didn't understand them: if he was taught, perhaps he might. "No; but," said the Parson, "he must promise that he would believe." "But," said the Fox, "how can I promise, if I don't know?" "Then you must get somebody to promise for you," said the Parson. But the Fox couldn't do that; so the Parson said it was a bad case; but he couldn't be taught at the church school.

The Fox thought he was being treated very cruelly; and as he had heard of a society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Foxes, he went off to complain to them. They asked him what was the matter; but when he said he wanted to be taught, and that nobody would teach him, they thought he was come to make fools of them, and they whipped him out of the gate.

Then he sat down by the woodsides very disconsolately, and began to cry. A good-natured person going by, to whom he told his story, said that a little way off a school had been opened for the teaching of destitute animals; and he had better try them. He went with a heavy heart, for he didn't expect any good after his disappointment. And it was well he didn't, for they were full, and couldn't take him in. If he would do something wrong they told him he might get into prison, and find what he wanted; but as long as he was honest, there was no hope for him. But he didn't like to do anything wrong—it was just what he wanted not to do; so weary and hungry he trotted back to the forest.

He lay there thinking what to do for many days, 'till he grew so hungry that he thought he should die. He had been very fond of his father, and he wished to see him once more; so in a fit of dying duty he sallied off to the yard. He was no sooner there than a fat young duck came waddling under his nose. It was too much. Hunger and despair, and his fox's nature, overcame every scruple. The legs were disappearing down his throat, when pat over his head fell a whipcord noose, and the farmer's head appeared over the wall. * * * * * The poor fellow told his story. "Is that true?" said the Farmer. "I swear it by my father's skin," said the little Fox. "Then by your father's skin," said the Farmer, "I think it is somebody else that deserves hanging."

A THOUGHT IN SPRING.

Leaves, forest leaves, which to the traveller yield
A pleasant shade when summer suns are high,
And when the gales of autumn are afield,
Chanting their anthems wild, grow sear and die:
Emblems of human life! For then appear
The buds of hope, the promise of the year,
Of life to come, when, tyrants of an hour,
Winter and Death shall lose their vaunted power!

SWYNEN JERNIS.

THE APPRENTICESHIP OF LIFE.

By G. H. LEWES.

CHAP. V.—THE LOST SHEEP.

The snow was on the ground; the smiling softness of summer had given place to the grand dreariness of winter.

A change had come over the spirit of Armand not less remarkable than that which had come over the scene, since first we saw him seated at his uncle's hearth, contemplating the Baronne at her devotions. As on that evening on which we opened this narrative, the three were assembled in the great saloon, the Baronne at her devotions, the Baron pacing up and down the room.

There was this difference, however: the Baron was not listless, but irritated. He had just returned from Paris a disappointed suitor to an ungrateful court.

The Allies had entered Paris; Napoleon was at St. Helena; Louis XVIII. was on the throne of his ancestors. The Baron had calculated on the Restoration as a certain means of repairing his shattered fortunes; and implicitly trusted in the gratitude of his king. He had suffered in the cause, and of course estimated his services at a high price.

Unhappily there were hundreds with similar claims and even greater pretensions. To satisfy them all was impossible; the Baron was among those not satisfied.

"The Jesuits have done it all!" he bitterly exclaimed, as he quitted Paris in disgust.

Poor Jesuits! they had to bear the brunt of everything. The Baron hated them, and suspected them. It was quite clear that a king unpurged by the artifices of priestly perfidiousness would at once have recognized and recompensed the services of those who had devoted themselves to him in his misfortunes; but surrounded with canting hypocrites who could be just?

This was the cause of the Baron's irritation; and the reader may now imagine the effect of the following request made by Armand:—

"Grandmamma, may I go to mass with you to-morrow?"

The Baron turned brusquely round, but stopped in the centre of the room as if bewildered. The Baronne raised her head in wonderment. She knew nothing of the change which for months had been working in her grandchild, and this sudden desire to attend mass was equivocal. Fixing her eyes steadily on him, she seemed to demand an explanation.

"What new caprice is this?" asked his uncle.

"It is no caprice at all, but a very natural desire."

"What! there is a pair of bright eyes to be seen only at mass, he? Bravo, youngster! You begin betimes! But, after all, I would rather you never put foot within a church, even for bright eyes."

"There is nothing of the kind, I assure you, uncle. I am perfectly serious. I wish to hear mass."

"Armand," said the Baronne gravely, taking off her spectacles as she spoke, and laying them in the palm of her hand, which rested on the table, "you are too good a child to deride any serious conviction, I am sure, and you must see that your going to mass is unbecoming."

"No, dearest grandmamma, it is not so, for I am a Christian!"

"A what!" thundered the Baron, with hasty strides towards him.

The Baronne raised her eyes to Heaven, and seemed to utter a fervent prayer.

"What was that you said, young gentleman?" asked the Baron, with fierce sarcasm.

"That I am a Christian, uncle."

"Will you be kind enough to look me in the face," replied the Baron, speaking through his set teeth, "and just repeat those words?"

"Have I said anything wrong, that you are so angry with me?"

"Be kind enough to repeat those words, sir, or else retract them at once."

"Why should I retract them? There is no sin in them. I have been taught"—

"Oho! taught have you? There have been some of those canting priests in the house then, have there?"

Here he turned red with rage towards his mother, adding:

"So, while I was in Paris dancing attendance on an ungrateful court, advantage was taken of my absence to introduce those whining vagabonds!"

The Baronne met his angry glance with a look of quiet dignity, and said:

"That reproach to me, Henri!"

"To you—to you! You have determined on making the boy a hypocrite, and all means were good which secured so good an end."

"Henri, do you believe what you say...and of your mother?"

"Indeed, uncle, you are wrong," interposed Armand. "Grandmamma has never once spoken to me about religion, and you see she is as surprised as yourself to hear of my changed opinions. No priest has been inside the house. I have not even spoken to one. My conversion has been the work of a friend."

"What! that old fool the Comte de Lecoëdic?"

"No, his friend Frangipolo."

"And you mean to say he has stuffed your head with old woman's tales till you believe them? Why, you foolish boy, if you listen to all the rubbish they will tell you, you won't know whether you stand on your head or your heels."

Armand was silent.

"I must put a stop to this," continued the Baron impatiently, "or else the old canters will crow over your conversion as a victory. To think of a boy of sense believing such twaddle!"

He paced the room greatly incensed, and still more perplexed. At length, having satisfied himself that a little firmness was all that was necessary, he told his nephew to follow him into the library.

Left alone, the Baronne threw herself upon her knees, and, with tears of joy trickling down her cheek, offered up a prayer of gratitude to the Almighty for having been pleased to open the eyes of her darling to the light.

She then resented herself in her huge chair, looking at the blazing logs in a reverie of the most charming kind. The simple heart of the good creature had recovered all its wonted serenity; and her imagination carried her away till she found herself fondly hoping that Armand would convert both his father and his uncle.

She had arranged this scheme very comfortably in her mind, when the confused sound of raised voices, followed by that of a heavy fall, aroused her from the reverie.

Alarmed, she rushed out of the room, and ere she reached the library, the well-known voice of her son, hoarse with passion, struck upon her ear, and told her that her worst fears were true.

On quitting the saloon the Baron had forgotten to take a light with him; but on the staircase he met a servant holding in her hand one of those dark brown candles, made, I believe, of some composition of rosin, which are to be seen only in Brittany, where they bear the name of *oribus*. The Baron snatched this *oribus* from her, and with hasty strides continued his way. Armand followed, not without serious uneasiness.

On entering the library the Baron placed the *oribus* on the mantelpiece, against which he leaned, pointing at the same time to a chair, in which his nephew seated himself, with a vague terror.

The library struck a chill into his very bones: it was as cold as a well. No one had entered it for half a century, except to seek for some book, or hurriedly to replace one on its shelves. The combined influence of cold and of terror made Armand's teeth chatter. His uncle noticed it. Leaning with one arm on the mantelpiece, in this cold gloomy library, his dark shadow thrown along the wall, the flickering dismal light of the *oribus* just strong enough to make the darkness of the place more sensible, he really was in a position to exercise considerable influence over the imagination of a boy.

But he soon lost the advantage of his position by the awkwardness of his attack. He was violent and contemptuous; above all, he committed the enormous mistake of treating his adversary as a boy. This fault was irreparable, and would have ruined even a good cause; and Armand had been too much accustomed to reason with men to have his capacity questioned now.

It was a painful scene. The Baron was impetuous, imperious, unreasoning; his nephew was timid, mild, but logical. The longer the discussion lasted the worse became the Baron's position. He felt it to be so. Exasperated, he swore an oath that, if the boy did not at once give up all his folly, he would beat it out of him!

Armand's spirit, which had been roused by the discussion, could not brook this, and he warned the Baron not to lay a finger on him, or he would not answer for himself.

This gave his uncle savage delight! This was the sort of opposition he felt himself best able to cope with; and, springing forward, he overthrew the table which stood in his way, and attempted to seize Armand, who eluded his grasp.

"Uncle, uncle!" shrieked the boy, "remember a Fayol never yet brooked a blow from any man. Don't come near me!"

But his uncle had grasped him, and in another instant had thrown him on the ground. His uplifted arm was arrested ere it fell, and, looking round, he beheld the figure of his mother standing erect in an attitude of command.

"Touch him not, Henri."

"Don't interfere, mother."

"Henri, touch that boy, and your mother quits this house for ever."

"Leave the boy to me, I say: I will not be interfered with."

"Henri, what you would do is wicked! The dear child has turned unto the light. I will not have him ill-treated. Reason with him if you please; convince him if you can; but no violence, no threats, above all, no ill usage. I will not suffer it. Do not stamp or frown: remember it is your mother who speaks."

"I do remember it or I would not have borne this so long."

"Henri, I have never exercised a mother's authority; I have always found you willing enough to trust in a mother's love: to that love I now appeal—I appeal to your tenderness—I appeal to your better nature!"

"What would you have me do?"

"God's will be done! attempt not thou to alter it!"

This was said in a low thrilling tone that shook even the Baron.

Armand gazed with strange admiration on the majestic figure of the aged woman, seen in the feeble trembling light, her tall form erect, her arm extended with a queenly gesture, her face lighted with an expression of resolution he had never seen before.

"The brat shall go back to his father, then," brusquely exclaimed the Baron, thus backing out of the position. "I will have nothing more to do with him; see what his father says to it."

And he left the room.

The Baronne folded her grandchild to her bosom, and after a long embrace, accompanied by hysterical sobbing, she sat him down beside her, and, holding one hand in both of hers, made him tell her the whole history of his conversion.

She rose as he finished, and said:

"Be firm, my darling child; never forsake the truth; the Lord will protect his own! You have a life before you: it may be happy, and if it is your faith will make it happier; if it be unhappy, your faith will save you from despair."

The next morning Armand was on his road to Paris.

The first Episode in Armand's life, which we close here, was not so unlike that of most ardent earnest souls, as it may hastily be judged. True, that whereas youth commonly begins with faith to struggle slowly into doubt, and the first stage of such a life is usually closed by scepticism, and therefore Armand's career seems an inversion of the order; yet, deeply considered, what is it in both cases that the youthful soul attains? Is it not simply the inheritance of its birthright—the enjoyment of its own individual powers—the formation of its own creed? In childhood—as is proper—we are led by the convictions of others; in manhood—and there is no true manhood but that—we lead ourselves by convictions of our own. The first epoch in life, therefore, is that in which, having shaken aside the leading strings, we walk boldly by ourselves. Whether we walk with our fathers, or away from them, matters not: the essential point is that we can walk alone. The restless scepticism of youth will soon subside, for no true soul can be content to dwell amid ruins; and it will subside as the germs of new convictions slowly expand and take the place of old prejudgments. I call them prejudgments, because the word prejudices has ugly associations, not properly operating in this argument, for these prejudgments may be eternal truths, yet are prejudgments to the soul which has accepted them from others without thinking them out for itself. To explain my meaning decisively I would say, the orthodox Christian, who has thought for himself and formed his convictions, has replaced prejudgments by convictions, though in point of doctrine he remains precisely where he was before; in like manner the heterodox thinker departing from the doctrine has also replaced prejudgments by convictions. As Milton says, "A man may be a heretic in the truth; and if he believes things only because his pastor says so, without knowing other reasons, though because his belief be true, yet the very truth he holds becomes his heresy." In one word I would say, what is given us in Childhood as Truth Decided we have to replace in our Manhood by Truth Believed; and thus is the first grand episode in a life rightly named

The Initiation of Faith.

THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS.

A MYTHIC PARALLEL.

THE coming election for the metropolis of France seems likely to cause that fair city as much perplexity as his judgment between the rival goddesses did its namesake in days of classic recollection. The *gamin* of Montmartre is as sore beset as ever was the shepherd of Mount Ida; and it is well if the waters of the Seine blush not through the consequences of this contest as ruddily as through those of the ancient one blushed the waters of the Scamander.

The curious in personification may, perhaps, discern parallels in the three emulous deities, for each of the parties by which Paris is at present courted. The stately ox-eyed Juno, beautiful as despotic, may represent the Legitimists with their chivalrous traditions and maintenance of the "Right Divine." The staid and sage Minerva is recalled by the Orleanists with their *doctrinaire* theories of government and unimaginative utilitarianism and routine; while none but the Goddess of Love and Freedom can represent the young Republic, with its promises of happiness and fraternity, wooing not only the approval but the affections of the Judge.

The offered guerdons also have their parallels. The Monarchy of the Legitimists may fairly stand for the kingdom offered by Juno; and even if the military glory of the Orleanists is confined to the exploits at the Caves of Dahra, and the achievements which won the protectorate of Otaheite, still that, for want of a nobler, may represent the warlike fame which Minerva made the inducement for her election; while the peerless beauty promised by Venus may answer to Liberty, which, in all its attractiveness, is offered by the Republic.

It is probable that the Republic, as Venus did, may gain the day; and all that we hope is that the seat awarded to its representative may not also find its parallel in the golden apple of discord which was adjudged to Venus.

THE BEAUTY OF MARRIED MEN.

I LIKE Frederika Bremer, but I must remonstrate against the miserable sophism which she puts forth in her *Easter Offering* on the superior attractiveness of married men. I am a bachelor myself, and mean to remain so. It outrages my feelings to hear her basely flattering the Benedicts as she does in this passage:—

"I confess then, that I never find, and never have found a man more lovable, more captivating than when he is a married man; that is to say, a good married man. A man is never so handsome, never so perfect in my eyes as when he is married, as when he is a husband, and the father of a family, supporting, in his manly arms, wife and children, and the whole domestic circle, which, in his entrance into the married state, closes around him and constitutes a part of his home and his world. He is not merely ennobled by this position, but he is actually beautified by it. Then he appears to me

as the crown of creation; and it is only such a man as this who is dangerous to me, and with whom I am inclined to fall in love. But then propriety forbids it. And Moses, and all European legislators declare it to be sinful, and all married women would consider it a sacred duty to stone me. Nevertheless, I cannot prevent the thing."

Shall I tell you the peculiar attraction? It is simply that Frederika is a daughter of Eve, and longs for the forbidden fruit. While clusters of perfect apples glitter on every tree around her, ready to drop into her mouth if she will but open it, she fixes a longing gaze at the insipid fruit, made piquant to her imagination by being forbidden. While Bachelors with well-oiled whiskers and radiant waistcoats smile at her side, she fixes her gaze on some imbecile Benedict who sleeps after dinner, wears easy boots, talks nonsense to babies about their *tootsy pootsies*, and smiles dotingly on those dirty-faced "citoyens dont il croit être le père." I have known married men, and I pledge you my honour they were all perfectly stupid individuals. Even gay Jack Harris, once the lion of all our parties, has sunk into the lazy commonplace married man, about whom nobody cares, except that meek, pale, sickly wife of his, and those obstreperous children, who dislocate my watch-chain and press their jam-stained fingers on my lavender trousers. No, Miss Bremer, no! a married man may be very "respectable," but, as to his attractiveness, allow me, in the name of a very numerous and happy class, distinctly to deny it. Besides, you are playing a dangerous game. If women learn to look with your eyes, what will become of us? If bachelors are not the targets for assassinating glances, do you know what will come of it? Why, this: every woman will be loving somebody else's husband; and then I leave you to guess what Mrs. Grundy will say! British Bachelors, arise!

VIVIAN.

THE DRAMA.

DRURY-LANE.—On Monday Bayle Bernard's drama of "The Passing Cloud" was produced with a strong cast, and by some inexplicable caprice on the part of the audience was sufficiently successful to induce its announcement for every evening. We were not able to be present on the first night, and cannot therefore say where the enthusiasm of the audience possibly found points to lay hold of; but on the second night, the peculiarities of the piece, to us, seemed its skilful avoidance of any sort of interest, and the astonishing patience with which the scanty pit sat out without a murmur what it nowhere found a chance of heartily applauding. Mr. Bernard is perhaps the very best writer of small comedies, farces, and dramas we have had for many years. His dialogue is always excellent, his stage-tact admirable, the animation of his pieces incessant; but in "The Passing Cloud" we see no traces of his hand. It might have been written in a lethargy. Its somnolence is oppressive. Though but in two acts, and with scarcely any plot, it occupies time enough for a five-act tragedy. Dreary beyond words to paint was the effect of the dialogue, spoken by the actors without animation, and falling into the chilling silence of the pit. People came in and went out; they talked and sat in chairs; then somebody else came in and went away again, but why they came in, what they did there, why they went away, and why they ever returned, seemed to us a mystery of dramatic art. Every now and then we expected the piece was growing to a culmination of interest, but no sooner was the expectation formed than the author dexterously contrived to avoid the situation as if it were a peril. Had "The Passing Cloud" been signed by a less known name we could have understood the piece; the explanation would have been "here is a gentleman who confounds a love of the drama with dramatic power;" but Bayle Bernard—man of wit, literature, and ripe experience in theatrical exigencies—to have signed so deplorable a mistake seems to us only explicable on the supposition we heard thrown out by a spectator, namely, that the piece was a wearisome five act German play reduced to the compass of two acts with all the language retained. Of the story we can absolutely give you no account, for it failed to write itself on our attention. Anderson was picturesquely dressed as an escaped galley-slave, and brought down by his energy the few bursts of applause which chequered at rare intervals the silence; but his delivery was too monotonous, and lengthened the lengthy piece. Vandenhoff played a feeble part like an experienced actor; he had no chance of an effect, but he saved the part from being insupportable. Miss Vandenhoff spoils her acting by over acting. She writes all her sentences in italics. Where the author has placed a "white muslin" she places a tragic heroine.

To dissipate the impression left by "The Passing Cloud" we resolved to delight our eyes with the splendour of "The Devil's Ring," and to delight our ears with the noble voice of Miss F. Huddart. A second hearing only deepened our admiration for this Easter piece, and the enthusiasm of the audience (people flocked in at second price) was genuine. Have you heard Miss Huddart? If you have not, go at once. Such a voice is worth your going ten miles to hear. You will grumble perhaps with us at her want of passion, energy, or even the conventional semblance thereof; but the deep full mellow tones of that contralto, sustaining the concerted pieces like an organ, and producing by single notes something of the effect produced by Lablache when he joins in a quartette, will thrill through every musical nerve. It is a voice "full of the warm South," and with all its power never loses its contralto tone, never falls into the coarseness which often ruins voices of that calibre. If that sleepy indolent manner could be got rid of and replaced by a little musical passion, Miss Huddart would make a *furor*. Meanwhile such voices are sufficiently rare to make it worth anyone's trouble to go and hear them.

ST. JAMES'S.—The season of French comedy has opened brilliantly. Already we have had Scribe's admirable "Bertrand et Raton," known to the English public as "The Minister and the Mercer," but Samson playing in his finished style the part played by Farren,—and Delavigne's "Ecole des Vieillards." On Wednesday Mr. Bunn took his benefit. As there are no novelties to chronicle this week we shall reserve our remarks on M. Samson till a more fitting occasion.

THE STRAND.—A dramatic anecdote, "Poor Cousin Walter," neatly written, and charmingly performed by Mrs. Stirling and Mr. Leigh Murray, has been the only novelty. "The Vicar of Wakefield" continues its success.

The most interesting news of the dramatic world is that Charles Kean has taken the Princess's Theatre for two years, with the intention of trying what can be done by a good company performing new plays. If any dramatic speculation looks feasible that surely does. "Revolutions" are of all experiments the most costly and most hazardous; they may make an effective variety, but no theatre can hope to prosper on them. Novelties at any rate excite curiosity. Twenty new plays may be produced before a "hit" is made; but that one hit will amply repay all that its predecessor cost. Charles Kean has already in his possession plays by Bulwer, Jerrold, and Lovell: not a bad basis to build on.

THE LYRIC DRAMA.

At the Royal Italian Opera, on Tuesday evening, "Lucrezia Borgia" introduced Madame Grisi and Signori Mario and Tamburini for the first time

this season. It is strange, after remembering that Grisi has now been seventeen years before the public, to say that she is as good as ever—but really we cannot qualify the expression. Her performance of *Lucrezia* is noble in the extreme. Mario was suffering from a severe cold, and was compelled to omit some of his music; but he managed to let us understand that he is still the Mario of first-rate fame. Mademoiselle de Meric was also ill—too ill to appear at all—and her place was supplied by a very incompetent lady—a Mademoiselle d'Okolski—who, now the first time for some seasons, sang the popular *brindisi*, "Il segreto par esser felice," without receiving an encore. Tamburini sang as we are accustomed, in these latter days, to hear him sing—well—but not so well as formerly. He was welcomed very warmly.

"Norma" was given on Thursday, when Tamberlik made his appearance for the first time in the notoriously ungrateful part of *Pollio*. He has quite recovered from the indisposition which marred his first appeal to the British public as *Masaniello*. Tone has come back to his voice, and increased confidence has made both his singing and acting much more telling. Formés was the *Oreste*, and gave a picturesque version of this usually cold and stern character, which struck upon the audience as a novelty. His voice is magnificent, and he makes a truly artistic use of it. Mademoiselle Vera's *Adalgisa* was very pleasing—even with our recollection of the charming Corbani in the part.

The revival of such well-worn and mediocre works as *Lucrezia Borgia* and *Norma* is by no means to be desired at this theatre; since we cannot forget that it has hitherto been a fault chargeable on the management to produce the greatest operas so late in the season that sufficient time is not allowed for their due appreciation. We believe, too, that the public would willingly allow such weak operas as the two we have mentioned to slumber for a time in peace; seeing, as we do, how much has been done at this establishment in directing the taste towards better things.

Little need be said of "Don Giovanni" at her Majesty's Theatre on Thursday, as the cast was just about the same as that of last season. Signor Coletti made his first appearance this season as *Don Giovanni*. His view of the character is somewhat deficient in the insinuating quality which we may imagine such an unfailing hero to possess—but it is bold and reckless and effective. It is scarcely necessary to say that "La ci darem," that "Batti, batti," that "Il mio tesoro," were encored. We mention the fact only to protest against the whole *snobbish* system of encoring. The musical pieces of "Don Giovanni" are not ballads (price two shillings) written for the music-sellers: they are pieces of dramatic action in which there is not only beautiful music, but in which the story of the opera is carried forward. To encore these, and to have the whole series of emotions acted over again, is to expose the wiles of the puppets with a vengeance! Now that our bile is disturbed we must also protest against the introduction of a divertissement between the acts of such an opera as "Don Giovanni." The capital dancing of Mademoiselle Ferrari could not reconcile us to the barbarism.

COSTUME.

THE Admiralty propose to improve the uniform of the Navy with the view of reducing its cost to the junior officers; so says the *United Service Gazette*. "It is said that epaulettes are to be altogether abolished; and it is a question whether the antiquated cocked hat will be retained for use on ship-board." It is to be hoped that in rendering the uniform less costly, the Admiralty will not render it less picturesque. It would be quite possible to combine cheapness and artistic propriety. Indeed, some of the most picturesque and characteristic costumes, especially those of a national kind, are also among the cheapest.

Our social habit of attaching respectability to costliness has done more than anything to destroy character or beauty in costume. Every class aims to avoid as much as possible the appearance of poverty. The varied garb therefore of different trades and professions, which lends an agreeable variety to the aspect of a people, is annulled; and every man, if not every woman, strives to fit himself into a respectable average. "The tailor makes the man;" he more often unmakes him. Our dress may be respectable; but it is very ugly: it is the victim of a perpetual contest between the tendency of the customer to a respectable average, and the tendency of the tailor to satisfy demands with as little cloth as possible.

We lose much by this level uniformity. We have heard a living philosopher say that the motive which prompts individual study of dress is the instinctive desire to typify in the outward aspect the inward nature; man gratifies his own sense of individuality by making others recognize it. Our average uniform tends to nullify this piquant variety of character; it deprives us of a guide in our intercourse with our fellow-countrymen.

In many cases it deprives classes and individuals of a certain moral influence which accompanies an appropriate aspect; a quality well enough known to those who are practised in theatrical affairs. What would a hero be in an uncouth garb, or an interesting lover in a dowdy one? So it is in real life: the aspect is an auxiliary to the moral effect of character; but it is annulled by our average uniform.

THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES.

WE should be very sorry to rob Rhetoric of a jewel—to tear away from the hands of authors and orators a stereotyped illustration which serves equally to justify their classical attainments and their wide-sweeping fancy—but the fact is, the sword of Damocles is not a proper illustration of suspended terror: the very monotony of suspense would soon have cured Damocles of his terror. By a law of the human mind we accommodate ourselves to any situation, and familiarity with danger breeds contempt of it. The first day Damocles was probably uneasy; finding, however, that he went to sleep without being disturbed by its fall, he soon grew accustomed to his situation, and ceased to believe that it ever would fall. We have all of us such a sword suspended over our heads—or, to be classical, let us say, not a sword, but a pair of scissors, which the pale, thin hands of Atropos skilfully employ—do we, however, trouble ourselves about it? Because we *must* die one day, and *may* die tomorrow, do we tremble? Because Damocles saw the sword was very ill-supported, and might fall upon him at any minute, would he not soon have ceased to tremble when he found it did not fall?

INTERPRETATIONS.

PEOPLE are fond of drawing morals from stories, and, according to Hegel, every story has its moral dependent upon the interpreter. Many are the strange interpretations which sagacity has read, but none perhaps ever exceeded in audacious ingenuity the interpretation of a celebrated story in Scripture, given by Dr. Nolan, a Dissenting minister, as it appeared on his trial, of amorous complexion and Jesuitical subtlety. Wishing to clothe his desires with a sanction of religion, he opposed the woman's scruples by referring to David and to our Saviour, who "commended the woman taken in adultery." "Commended" is exquisite!

SCRAPS OF THOUGHT.

X. Some have the folly to be ridiculous; some have the vanity to be ridiculous; some have the impudence to be ridiculous; very few have the courage to be ridiculous.

XI. A man may be great who satisfies a deep popular want; far greater is he who creates such a want.

XII. In youth we are transparent as glass, but as brittle; as we advance in life we gain in toughness, but lose in transparency. We should rather, however, be like the malleable glass which has lately been discovered, thoroughly transparent with tenacity in the same degree.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK. (From the Registrar-General's Returns.)

In the week ending last Saturday, the deaths of 1124 persons were registered in the metropolis; this number showing only a small decrease on the return of the previous week, though the latter was unduly swelled by an extraordinary influx of coroners' cases. In corresponding weeks of 10 previous years (1840-9) the average number of deaths was 918, which, if corrected for increase of population, becomes 1001; the excess in last week amounts, therefore, to 123. The following series exhibits the deaths registered weekly since the beginning of March: they were 875, 967, 1028, 1167, and in the last week 1124. The present return, as compared with that of the preceding week, shows a decrease in the epidemic class of diseases, an increase in the tubercular, and in diseases of the brain and nervous system; but in complaints affecting the respiratory organs the two returns are almost the same. As compared with the corrected average of 10 corresponding weeks, the present return shows a decrease in epidemic diseases, but a considerable increase in diseases of the respiratory organs. Bronchitis was fatal last week to 119 persons; pneumonia, to 86; asthma, to 23; laryngitis, pleurisy, and other complaints of the same class, to 25; the deaths in the aggregate from these causes being 253, whereas the corrected average is only 166. Consumption destroyed 134 persons—nearly the average number. Two boys and three girls died of laryngismus stridulus. In the epidemic class, smallpox was fatal to 4 persons, measles to 16, scarlatina to 17, hooping-cough to 27, croup to 5, influenza to 8, diarrhoea to 15, erysipelas to 15, typhus to 34, the mortality being less than usual from all these causes, except typhus, which is about the average, influenza, diarrhoea, and erysipelas, which are above it. A death from cholera occurred on the 31st of March, at 4, Phoenix-street North, St. Giles-in-the-Fields. The deceased was the daughter of a beer-shop-keeper, of the age of 7 years, and died from "English cholera," after 16 hours' illness. Mr. Simpson, the registrar, mentions that "the medical attendant, before certifying the cause of death, called on him to explain that, if the late epidemic had prevailed at the present time, he would have considered it right to return the case as 'Asiatic cholera.' The disease commenced with excessive sickness and diarrhoea, and the latter speedily assumed the appearance of rice-water purging, attended with cramps. The father of the child died of 'Asiatic cholera' during the late visitation. No other person is now ill in the house." Two persons are reported this week as having died of intemperance, or of disease engendered by it. On the 9th of March, at Bethnal-green workhouse, a female servant died at 23 years of age, of "bilious cholera (after an illness of 2 days)." The daughter of a weaver, aged 14 years, died at 9, Rose-street, Bethnal-green, of "cholera." A child of 22 days, on whom an incision was held, died in Farringdon-street of "inflammation of the peritoneum from exposure to cold." Four children were accidentally suffocated in bed.

At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean height of the barometer in the week was 29.363 in. The mean temperature was 49.6 deg., higher by 4.6 deg. than the average of the same week in seven years, and no less than 13.7 deg. higher than in the week immediately preceding. On Monday and Tuesday it was respectively 6 deg. and 7 deg. higher than the average.

Results of the Registrar-General's return of mortality in the Metropolis for the week ending on Saturday last. The first column of figures gives the aggregate number of deaths in the corresponding weeks of the ten previous years:—

	Ten Weeks of 1839-49.	Week of 1850.
Zymotic Diseases	1621	158
Dropsy, Cancer, and other diseases of un- certain or variable seat	493	54
Tubercular Diseases	1788	186
Diseases of the Brain, Spinal Marrow, Nerves, and Senses	1188	162
Diseases of the Heart and Blood-vessels ..	319	37
Diseases of the Lungs and of the other Or- gans of Respiration	1515	253
Diseases of the Stomach, Liver, and other Organs of Digestion	850	63
Diseases of the Kidneys, &c.	87	11
Childbirth, diseases of the Uterus, &c. ..	89	9
Rheumatism, diseases of the Bones, Joints, &c.	76	11
Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, &c. ..	11	2
Malformations	18	6
Premature Birth and Debility	220	31
Atrophy	132	26
Age	354	62
Sudden	153	17
Violence, Privation, Cold, and Intemperance	297	35
Total (including unspecified causes) ..	9184	1124

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY.
THE Home Funds have not been in a very active state during the week. The market has been upon the whole rather flat than otherwise, and the announcement, on Wednesday, that the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt had a sum of upwards of half a million out of the surplus revenue of the United Kingdom, for the year ending the 31st January last, to be applied to the purchase of stock, had no influence upon the market—it was, indeed, rather flatter immediately afterwards. The highest price of Consols last week was 96½; this week they have not exceeded 96, and they came down as low as 95½. On Monday they were operated in to a small extent at 96½; but on Tuesday they declined to 95½; and on Wednesday, at the opening, they did not much exceed that quotation. The settlement of the account for the

past month took place yesterday, and passed off very well. There was a good deal of new business done, and prices were well supported. Consols for the next account, on the 9th of May, brought 96½, and in one or two instances 96½, these prices prevailing with both buyers and sellers.

Business has been done this week in Reduced Three per Cents. at 94½ to 95½, and Three and a quarter per Cents. at 96½ to 97½, Long Annuities for 30 years, 7-16 to 8-16; Exchequer Bills, 67s. to 71s. prem.; Bank Stock, 206 to 207; India Stock, 266 to 268; ditto Bonds 91 to 94 prem.

There has been a good deal of business done in some of the Foreign Stocks, especially in Peruvian, Spanish, and Mexican, which have somewhat improved.

There has been no fluctuation of any great consequence on any of the Bourses of the Continent. The more settled state of political affairs generally may account for this—except, perhaps, in Paris, where continued indications of disorganization do not appear to have affected the public securities at all this week.

The Railway Share Market got a slight start on Wednesday, after several days' severe depression, during which the shares in some of the old trunk lines fell several pounds per share. Only on Tuesday Great Western experienced a further decline of £1 per share, having then fallen to the lowest point yet known; Brightons fell at the same time £1 per share, Midlands, £1. 10s.; and South-Westerns, 10s. per share. On Wednesday there was more activity in the market, the principal dealings being in North-Westerns, Brightons, Great Westerns, Great Northern, East Lancashire, Midlands, South-Easterns, and York, Newcastle and Berwicks. The decline last week was very serious, upon the whole, having been as much as £4 in Great North of England, £4 in Leeds and Bradford, £3 in Somersetshire and Yorkshire, £2 10s. in Great Western, £2 10s. in Midland, and £2 10s. in South Western. A slight advance upon the prices thus reduced has, however, been realised this week.

The Produce Market has not undergone any material improvement; it still continues heavy, and there is in most articles a downward tendency. In Corn there has been generally, throughout the country, a backwardness in purchasing, as though an opinion prevailed that prices would fall still lower. On Monday, in Mark-lane, last week, prices were with difficulty maintained; and on Wednesday the market was dull, with a downward tendency. Most of the provincial markets have also been drooping. The prospects for next harvest are thought to have something to do with this depression; for the crops all over the country are represented to be in a very healthy state, and to promise great abundance. Similar accounts, too, are received from most of the corn-growing countries of continental Europe.

The improvement in the markets for manufactures, noticed last week, has been pretty well supported. Both in the Lancashire and Yorkshire districts there has been some animation in the markets all this week; the demand, however, has been more limited in the woollen trade, both for the foreign and home trade, though an advance in prices has been sought, and, in some instances, obtained. There have been two failures in Manchester, but neither of them of any great amount.

SATURDAY.
There was no fluctuation in the funds yesterday, and the transactions were not important. This morning there is every appearance of their remaining steady.

AVERAGE PRICE OF SUGAR.

The average price of Brown or Muscovado Sugar, computed from the returns made in the week ending the 9th day of April, 1850, is 23s. 10d. per cwt.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending on Saturday, the 6th of April, 1850.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.		£	
Notes issued	30,190,420	Government Debt, 11,015,100	
		Other Securities .. 2,984,900	
		Gold Coin and Bul- lion	15,946,543
		Silver Bullion	243,877
			£30,190,420
BANKING DEPARTMENT.		£	
Proprietors' Capital, 14,553,000		Government Secu- rities (including Dead-weight An- nuity)	14,418,854
Reserve	3,633,525	Other Securities ..	11,984,434
Public Deposits (in- cluding Exche- quer, Savings', Banks, Commis- sioners of National Debt, and Divi- dend Accounts) ..	9,255,123	Notes	10,815,930
Other Deposits	10,024,993	Gold and Silver Coin	745,342
Seven-day and other Bills	1,094,919		
	£37,961,560		£37,961,560

Dated April 11, 1850. M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

	(Closing Prices.)					
	Satur.	Mon.	Tues.	Wedn.	Thurs.	Frid.
Bank Stock	205	205	207	206	205	205
3 per Cent. Reduced ..	95	95	95	94	95	95
3 per Cent. Cons. Anns.	96	96	95	96	96	96
3 per Cent. Anns. 1726.	96	96	95	96	96	96
3 per Cent. Anns. ..	97	97	97	97	97	97
New 5 per Cent.	192	192	192	192	192	192
Long Annuities, 1850. ..	8	8	8	8	8	8
India Stock 10 per Cent.	92	94	94	91	91	91
Ditto Bonds	92	94	94	91	91	91
3 per Cent. Cons. for Acc.	96	96	95	96	96	96
Ex. Bills, 10000, June 2	69	70	71	70	69	71
Ditto, 5000.	67	71	71	67	68	71
Ditto, Small	70	71	71	72	71	71

FOREIGN FUNDS.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

Austrian 5 per Cents.	75
Belgian Bonds, 4 per Cent.	82
Brazilian 5 per Cents.	87
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents.	53
Chilian 6 per Cents.	96
Ecuador Bonds	3
Danish 3 per Cents.	70
Dutch 2 per Cents.	55
— 4 per Cents.	55
French 5 per Cents. An. at Paris ..	89
— 3 per Cents. March 28	55
Mexican 5 per Cent. Bonds	25
— Small	28
Neapolitan 5 per Cents.	—
Peruvian 4 per Cents.	67
Portuguese 3 per Cent.	85
— 4 per Cents.	32
— Annuities	167
Russian, 1822, 5 per Cents.	167
Spanish Actives, 5 per Cents.	18
— Passive	34
— Deferred	37

SHARES.

(Last Official Quotation during the Week ending Friday Evening.)

RAILWAYS.—		
Caledonian	7	
Edinburgh and Glasgow	27	
Eastern Counties	6	
Great Northern	56	
Great North of England	217	
Great Southern and Western (Ireland) ..	57	
Great Western	51	
Hull and Selby	96	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	32	
Lancaster and Carlisle	51	
London, Brighton, and South Coast ..	77	
London and Blackwall	4	
London and North-Western	103	
Midland	34	
North British	74	
South-Eastern and Dover	13	
South-Western	59	
York, Newcastle, and Berwick	12	
York and North Midland	15	
DOCKS.—		
East and West India	141	
London	119	
St. Katherine	80	
BANKS.—		
Australasian	24	
British North American	49	
Colonial	8	
Commercial of London	25	
London and Westminster	17	
London Joint Stock	17	
National of Ireland	17	
National Provincial	42	
Provincial of Ireland	20	
Union of Australia	19	
Union of London	19	
MINES.—		
Bolanos	—	
Brazilian Imperial	—	
Ditto, St. John del Rey	13	
Cobre Copper	—	
MISCELLANEOUS.—		
Australian Agricultural	15	
Canada	26	
General Steam	27	
Peninsular and Oriental Steam	80	
Royal Mail Steam	51	
South Australian	19	

OILS, COALS, CANDLES.

Rape Oil	per cwt. £1 19 0
Refined	2 0 0
Linseed Oil	1 12 0
Linseed Oil-Cake	per 100 lb 0 6
Candles, per dozen	as 6d. to 0 5 9
Moulds (6d. per doz. discount)	0 7 0
Coals, Hutton	0 19 0
Tees	0 16 6

HAY AND STRAW. (Per Load of 36 Trusses.)

CUMBERLAND. SMITHFIELD. WHITECHAPEL.	
Hay, Good	50s. to 70s. 48s. to 70s.
Inferior	50 0 0 36 0 0
New	0 0 0 0 0 0
Clover	60 88 60 90 60 90
Wheat Straw	22 29 21 28 21 28

HOPS.

Kent Pockets 135s. to 168s.	York Regents per ton 80s. to 110s.
Choice ditto .. 147 32	Wiabek Regents .. 70 80
Sussex ditto .. 120 130	Scotch Reds .. 66 70
Farnham do. .. 170 250	French Whites .. 55 65

GRAIN, Mark-lane, April 13.

Wheat, R. New ..	35s. to 37s.	Maple	23s. to 25s.
Fine	38 40	White	22 23
Old	40 41	Boilers	24 25
White	40 46	Beans, Ticks ..	20 22
Fine	41 42	Old	25 27
Superior New ..	45 48	Indian Corn ..	28 30
Rye	21 23	Oats, Feed	14 16
Barley	20 23	Fine	13 16
Malt	22 23	Poland	16 18
Malt, Ord.	45 48	Fine	18 19
Fine	46 49	Potato	17 18
Pork, Hog	22 23	Fine	18 19

GENERAL AVERAGE PRICE OF GRAIN.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 12.			
Imperial General Weekly Average.			
Wheat	38s. 1d.	Rye	21s.
Barley	33 2	Beans	23 1
Oats	14 10	Peas	24 1
Aggregate Average of the Six Weeks.			
Wheat	38s. 1d.	Rye	22s.
Barley	33 6	Beans	24 1
Oats	15 1	Peas	25 1

FLOUR.

Town-made	per sack 38s. to 41s.
Seconds	35 38
Essex and Suffolk, on board ship ..	31 33
Norfolk and Stockton	29 31
American	per barrel 21 23
Canadian	21 23
Wheaten Bread, 6d. to 7d. the lib. loaf. Households 4 to 5d.	

bers' Journal, Preston Guardian, and Galway Mercury, have contributed valuable aid. The *Dublin Commercial Journal*, besides furnishing an excellent article on the subject, has prepared a Petition, to be signed by its fifteen thousand subscribers and Readers—as an example which should be followed by journals that are thoroughly earnest in the cause. A reference to the *Financial Review* will show that from one unstamped publication a sum of nearly £11 has been received—collected in six-pences.

At the end of this report will be found a list of District Secretaries; it is hoped that energetic persons residing in districts not included in the list will offer themselves for this office, and will communicate with the Secretary.

The following instructions have been issued:—In places where the Provisional Secretary is the only person active in the cause, he will be expected to prepare a petition to Parliament against the taxes on knowledge, and to forward it either to some liberal M.P., or to 15, Essex-street, Strand. In places where there is more activity, the Provisional Secretary will gather round him the best men he can find, and endeavour to form them into a Free Knowledge Committee or Society, with proper officers appointed by themselves. So soon as such Society shall be formed, the duty of the Provisional Secretary will cease, the new Society being entirely independent of the Committee in London.

It is hoped, however, that all such societies will communicate frequently with the London Committee, which will endeavour to be an organ of communication among all the enemies of the taxes on knowledge throughout the country.

The London Committee intend, from time to time, to publish a list of all Provincial Secretaries, whether provisional or otherwise, and will send them copies of all their publications. In attempting to carry their object by argument alone, the Committee address themselves to the People, among whom a body has arisen capable of responding to such an appeal. But it would be folly to go before Parliament with no other support than that of a good cause. The Committee therefore entreat that all parties interested, whether morally or pecuniarily, in the spread of information, will beseege the House of Commons with petitions, in order that the Government may be called upon, again and again, to explain why they fear to set knowledge free. From every paper-mill, printing-office, booksellers' or bookbinders' society, Mechanics' Institution, school, religious or political association, town council, and parish vestry, a petition should arise, to demand that the press should no longer be taxed.

In every town, where two or three enemies of ignorance are banded together, a Free Knowledge Association should be formed, to superintend the presentation of petitions from the locality. These should be sent to such Members of Parliament as possess the confidence of the petitioners; or, failing this, to the Committee in London. Contributions to defray the expense of the agitation are earnestly requested. If every one interested would contribute sixpennyworth of postage stamps there would be no lack of funds.

A society representing all the principal London papers (except the *Times*) with Mr. Peter Borthwick for its Chairman, and Mr. McEntee for its Secretary, is agitating for the separate repeal of the Advertisement Duty—a duty, which considered merely in a financial point of view, may perhaps, be deemed the most obnoxious of the taxes on knowledge. The Newspaper Stamp Abolition Committee, however, consider the financial and trade view as far less important than the moral one, and believe the stamp to be the most mischievous, acting as it does as a prohibition on newspapers for the poor.

The Committee earnestly deprecate any policy which must terminate in teaching the people that to break bad laws is the only way of getting them repealed; but they are convinced that the blessing of a free press is one that will be obtained whatever may be the cost. That it may be obtained speedily and legally is their most earnest desire.

Signed by order of the Committee, and on their behalf,
FRANCIS PLACES, Brompton-square, Treasurer.
JAMES WATSON, 3, Queen's Head-passage, Sub-Treasurer.
J. DORRIS COLLEY, 15, Essex-street, Strand, Secretary.
Feb. 1st, 1850.

* In reporting the speeches of Mr. Gibson, at Manchester, and Mr. Cobden, at Bradford, the *Times* omitted the paragraphs attacking the Taxes on Knowledge.

THE WESTMINSTER AND FOREIGN QUARTERLY REVIEW.

- No. CIV, and No. LXXXIX, for April, 1850.
1. THEORIES OF BEAUTY.
 2. CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS AND PERSIAN ANNALS.
 3. ROMAN LIBERTY.
 4. THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF 1851.
 5. EQUITY BEFORE THE PROBATE COURTS.
 6. RELIEF MEASURES.
 7. POEMS OF EBENEZER ELLIOTT.
 8. JUNCTION OF THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC.
 9. THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.—James Van Artevelde: an Historical Romance. Mémoires de Philippe de Commines. The Catastrophe of Hungary. Travels in the Netherlands.

CORRESPONDENCE.—INDIA. CRITICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.
G. Lufford, 1, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street.

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCES.

Just published, the Third Edition of
THE NOVITIATE; or, a Year among the
English Jesuits. ANDREW STEINMETZ. With Memoir and
Portrait. 1 vol., post 8vo., 6s. cloth.

"This is a remarkable book. It describes, with a welcome minuteness, the daily, nightly, hourly occupations of the Jesuit Novitiate at Stonyhurst, their religious exercises and manners in private."—*British Quarterly Review*.

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Charles Fox, 67, Paternoster-row.

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ANDREW COMBE, M.D., by GEORGE COMBE. 8vo.,
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Edinburgh: Macmillan and Stewart; London: Longman
and Co.; and Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

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NATIONS, 1851.—The City of London Committee for
furthering the Exhibition of Industry of All Nations, in May,
1851, beg to urge upon the attention of parties residing within
the City of London, and intending to be exhibitors, that the
Royal Commissioners are desirous of becoming acquainted with
the names of exhibitors, the objects proposed to be exhibited,
and the space required for such objects, before the 10th of May,
1850, and the Committee are now prepared to supply printed
forms of returns to be filled up by intending exhibitors.

STEPHEN REED CATTLEY, M.A., Hon. Secs.

DAVID WILLIAM WIRE.

Office of the City of London Committee, 62,
Cheapside, April 6, 1850.

CONFERENCE.

NATIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION.

Office, 11, Poultry, London. Feb. 25, 1850.—In pur-
suance of the recommendation of a meeting of Reformers, held
in the City of London, on Thursday, December 20, 1849 (Sir
Joshua Walsley, M.P., in the chair), to hold a Conference of
the Friends of Reform from all parts of the kingdom, the Council
have decided that the CONFERENCE shall be held in Crosby-
hall, Bishopsgate-street, on Tuesday the 23rd and Wednesday
the 24th of April, 1850, the sittings to commence at eleven
o'clock in the forenoon. The objects of the Conference will be
to receive reports from delegates in reference to the progress of
the reform movement, to devise means of carrying out with
promptitude and vigour the objects of the Association, and to
complete the arrangements for realising the fund of £10,000,
required for the present year's operations.

The gentlemen eligible to attend the Conference will be:

1. The members of Parliament who support Mr. Hume's motion.
 2. Those elected by associations or committees who have adopted the principles of the National Reform Association.
- The Council request that immediate steps be taken by the
Friends of Reform to appoint representatives, whose names
should be furnished to the Secretary as soon as the nominations
are made.

By order of the Council,
THOMAS BEGGS, Secretary.

NILE.—GRAND MOVING PANORAMA OF

the NILE, comprising all the Monuments of Antiquity on
its banks, to which is added the interior of the great rock-cut
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brother, at Swindon, to Mr. Prout for publication will fully
confirm—

"I know you have never had occasion to take Blair's Pills,
but let me emphatically tell you, in mercy to any friend who
may suffer from gout, rheumatic gout, lumbago, sciatica, rheu-
matism, or any branch of that widely-ailing family, to recom-
mend their using them. In this country they are of wonderful
efficacy: not only am I personally aware of their powers, but I
see my friends and acquaintances receiving unflinching benefit
from their use. I would not be without them on any account.
If taken in the early stage of disease, they dissipate it altogether;
if in a later, they alleviate pain, and effect a much speedier
cure than by any other means within my knowledge."

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It is proposed that this Club shall consist of Noblemen and
Gentlemen, Members of the learned professions, Officers of the
Army and Navy, Merchants, Bankers, &c., without reference to
their political principles, and shall not exceed Two Thousand
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A well-regulated Club presents so many advantages to its
Members, that it is unnecessary to enlarge on the subject; in
introducing it to Gentlemen disposed to avail themselves of the
opportunity now offered, it will be sufficient to say that the
founders of this Club propose to establish it on the principles of
the Union.

It is intended that a well-selected library, and the other usual
accommodations, including a strangers' room, shall be attached
to the Club.

The general entrance fee will be twenty guineas, and the annual
subscription five guineas, but the first five hundred Mem-
bers will be admitted on paying an entrance fee of ten guineas,
and the next five hundred on paying an entrance fee of fifteen
guineas; the annual subscription to be payable in advance.

Candidates for admission to the Club will, on their election as
Members, be required to pay their admission fees and first year's
subscription into the hands of the Bankers of the Club; but
those moneys will not be dealt with till the Club is fully formed,
and, should such not be the case, will be returned without any
deduction.

The Committee have made provisional arrangements which
will enable them to rent or purchase, on very desirable terms,
Buckingham-house, Pall-mall, which is singularly well suited for
the accommodation of the Club; and the premises may be
viewed by any gentlemen desirous of becoming Members.

It is intended to open the Club for the accommodation of
Members within one month after its formation.

Gentlemen desirous of becoming Members are requested to
intimate the same to the Secretary, from whom prospectuses
and all particulars may be obtained.—By order of the Committee,
Buckingham-house, Pall, London.

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Is 1½d. per box. This excellent Family Pill is a Medi-
cine of long-tried efficacy for correcting all disorders of the
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ache, Giddiness, Sense of Fullness after meals, Dizziness of the
Eyes, Drowsiness, and Pains in the Stomach and Bowels;
Indigestion, producing a Torpid State of the Liver, and a consequent
inactivity of the Bowels, causing a disorganisation of
every function of the frame, will, in this most efficient prepa-
ration, by a little perseverance, be effectually removed. Two or
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from the benefit I have experienced within the past fortnight,
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Dunston-in-the-West, in the City of London; and published by JOSEPH
CLAYTON, junr. of and at the Publishing-office, No. 55, Strand, in the
Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the City of Westminster.—SATURDAY,
April 13, 1850.